THE TIMES

No. 66,487 | WEDNESDAY APRIL 14 1999 | http://www.the-times.co.uk



Easy Money Anne Ashworth on how to remortgage your home page 15

Safe or sorry? How airbags could kill page 3

Rise and shine Joanna Coles on the literary breakfast page 17

30p EVERY WEEKDAY

FREE BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS token page 22 | inter//face: The end of Civilization? | HALF-PRICE BODEN SUMMER SHIRTS TOKEN 4 PAGE 14

Blair in arms and artillery build-up

2,000 extra troops set for Kosovo

BY MICHAEL EVANS, PHILIP WEBSTER AND CHARLES BREMNER

BRITAIN is sending a further 2,000 troops, with tanks and artillery, to Macedonia to be part of an international force for eventual deployment in Kosovo.

Announcing the armoured battle group reinforcement in the Commons, Tony Blair said the extra troops were not being sent to invade Kosovo, but to be ready to implement a peace settlement.

The decision to send the 2,000 troops, backed by 14 Challenger tanks, 40 Warrior armoured vehicles and six AS90 self-propelled guns, will raise the British military presence in Macedonia to more than 6,300.

While the deployment of the Irish Guards battle group which will take up to 30 days, was intended to send a signal to Belgrade that Nato was still determined to form the core of an international peace force for Kosovo, the commander in charge of the alliance air campaign announced that he had asked for 300 more American aircraft, to bring the total number of planes to about 1,000. Other Nato countries have also been asked to send more aircraft.

Last night the Pentagon said that the request from General Wesley Clark, Nato's Supreme Allied Commander, was being considered seriously. The aircraft he wants include more F16s, F15s, A10 "tank-busters", radar-jamming EA6B Prowlers and refuelling tankers to allow bomber pilots to stay in the air over Yugoslavia for longer periods, while hunting for Serb forces and armour in Kosovo.

The US already has 500 aircraft committed to Operation Allied Force. The proposed increase in the number of American aircraft in the region may require President Clinton to call up members of the National Guard and Reserve. Other European countries, including Hungary and the Czech Republic, may also be asked to give basing rights for the additional planes because of overcrowding on Italian airfields.

The increase in Nato's war effort came on the day that Serb troops carried out a deliberately provocative incursion over the Kosovo border into Albania. Although Belgrade denied any such incident, Serb troops exchanged gunfire with Albanian border forces and occupied the village of Kamenica, more than a mile inside Albania.

The occupation lasted a few hours before the Serb forces withdrew. Nato warned earlier this week that it would treat any border incursions with the "utmost seriousness".

The extra British troops being sent to Macedonia will mean that Nato forces in the country will total 14,000. The first elements of an 8,000-man Nato force to help refugees has also begun to arrive in Albania. The second British battle group will be based on the Irish Guards, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Bill Cubitt, currently based in Germany.

There will also be elements from the Green Howards, the King's Royal Hussars, 4 Regiment Field Artillery and a 150-man armoured reconnaissance squadron from the Windsor-based Household Cavalry Regiment, equipped with 20 armoured vehicles, mostly Scimitars. Another key element will be from 32 Regiment Royal Engineers, equipped with mine-clearance and bridging vehicles. The heavy armour will be sent by ship from the German port of Emden to Salonika, in Greece.

Although the reinforcement will double the number of British tanks, self-propelled guns and Warriors in Macedonia, Ministry of Defence sources said the battle group was configured only for enforcing peace, not for military intervention in Kosovo.

Underlining this point in the Commons, the Prime Minister said: "They are being sent so that the UK can be in a position to play our proper role in the international effort to ensure the refugees are able to return to Kosovo in safety."

However, questioned by Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, Mr Blair promised that Nato would not wait for permission from President Milosevic to enter Kosovo. "It's not a question of Milosevic having a veto," he said.

He also insisted that a political settlement would have to be based on the Rambouillet accord, which Belgrade had refused to sign because of Nato insistence on sending an implementation force into Kosovo. "It must be a settlement that brings lasting peace to the entire region," he said, emphasising that the force that would eventually enter Kosovo would have to be Nato-led.

INSIDE

"The captain told my father, your daughter is good for wife, for Serbian wife. One of them had sex with me, the other hit me, the others kissed me."
Rape as a way of war, page 6

What is now planned on Kosovo's border with Macedonia and Albania is a mystery wrapped in a horror.
— Simon Jenkins, page 18

SANTIAGO LYON/AP



A Kosovo Liberation Army guerrilla astride a donkey near the northern Albanian village of Kamenica yesterday. There were reports that the village had been set on fire by Serb forces who entered Albania and clashed with Albanian Army troops

Army charges into battle by horse

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

IT is outnumbered, battered and fragmented in the face of Serb onslaughts, but the Kosovo Liberation Army is in no mood to surrender. Hitherto, the KLA has been a group whose international renown has far outstripped its effectiveness — hardly surprising when its fighting men go to war on a donkey. Yesterday they boosted their profile in America where almost 3,000 citizens are leaving to fight in their homeland.

Grey-moustachioed men of 60 stand shoulder to shoulder with blonde women of 16 and 17, displaying a pride in their Albanian roots which has convinced them to forsake their lives in America and fight to the death against the Yugoslav Army and paramilitary troops.

Thousands of Albanian-Americans, most with no military training, are volunteering to join the KLA and wage guerrilla war on the oppressors of a homeland many have never seen. "My sisters are getting raped and my brothers getting killed. My father is already over there fighting and I want to go too," said Linda Muriqi, 16, as she signed up with 300 others at a New York rally. They were flying to Tirana where they will be trained for three weeks before trying to join the KLA's struggle. Isa Kodra, a 19-year-old a student and a National Guard platoon sergeant, will help. "Maybe I can help save what is left of Kosovo. The reality is Nato will only respond when they see body bags. We will fill those body bags if necessary."

Ulster prisoner releases may be halted

BY MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Government may be forced to consider halting prisoner releases if the Northern Ireland peace process has to be suspended because of the deadlock over IRA arms.

That would not only jeopardise the scheduled releases of such figures as the Brighton bomber Patrick Magee and the Ulster Freedom Fighters commander Johnny Adair, but also increase the likelihood of the Good Friday accord unravelling during a summer of contentious parades and European elections.

Government sources conceded the possibility after another fruitless day of talks at Stormont and Sinn Fein's formal rejection of the Hillsborough declaration yesterday. Conservatives and Unionists have long demanded that the releases be halted in the absence of IRA disarmament and one source said: "If this doesn't work then the Government will be asked with more and more insistence why these releases are continuing.

To date 257 convicted terrorists have been freed on licence, but almost as many remain inside. Only yesterday, the four-strong Balcombe Street gang that terrorised London in the 1970s were released.

The parties returned from a 12-day Easter break yesterday with no radical new ideas for breaking the impasse caused by Sinn Fein's inability to deliver the IRA disarmament required by David Trimble.

Sinn Fein rejected the compromise proposed by the British and Irish Prime Ministers on April 1 as a "rewriting of the accord" and Gerry Adams said: "None of us should underestimate the crisis which we're now in."

Glyndebourne: the way ahead
— pages 19 and 35

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Barclays' £7m chief quits on day one

MIKE O'NEILL, the American banker hired as chief executive of Barclays two months ago, has quit after just one day in the office for health reasons (Caroline Merrell writes).

Mr O'Neill, 52, passed out in California last Wednesday after a bout of flu and his doctors found that he had a heart condition that could become dangerous if he was put under stress. Doctors in London confirmed the diagnosis on Monday, his first day with Barclays, and he quit yesterday.

Mr O'Neill had a contract worth £7 million over three years. But in the end he received nothing.

He said: "I am deeply disappointed to give up what was for me the dream appointment and the culmination of my whole career. Though the condition that has been diagnosed is not life-threatening, I have concluded that it would be unwise to take up this appointment."

The bank will now reconsider some of the candidates who were beaten to the job by Mr O'Neill.

US saviour, page 3

Pressure grows on Woodhead to quit

THE pressure on Chris Woodhead to resign as Chief Inspector of Schools increased yesterday as his former wife intensified her campaign for a government inquiry into claims that he lied about allegations of an affair with a sixth-former.

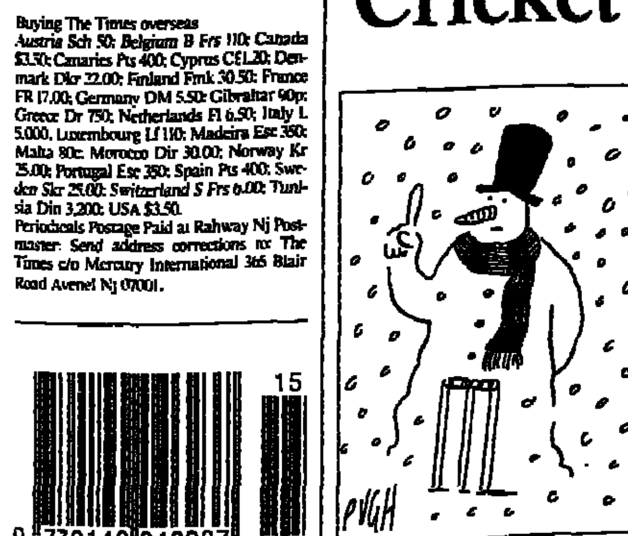
Mr Woodhead will face criticism of his leadership of the Office for Standards in Education in a report by MPs next month. The House of Commons Select Committee on Education is expected to question the impact of his high-profile style on teacher morale and raise questions about the accountability of his office.

The immediate threat comes from the stream of revelations from his former wife. Cathy Woodhead has produced evidence to contradict a sworn statement by her former husband that his affair with Amanda Johnston did not begin until two years after both had left Gordano School, near Bristol, over 20 years ago.

David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, has dismissed previous allegations as tittle-tattle.

'Conspiracy', page 11

Cricket caught out by a snowball



BY ADAM SHERWIN

SNOW stopped play on the opening day of the county cricket season yesterday. That is not quite as freakish as it seems. Last year the opening fixtures saw scarcely any action, but it was the second day before rain turned to snow.

This year play was cancelled between Durham and Worcestershire as 2in of snow fell on the Riverside ground in Chester-le-Street. In the other four matches only a handful of overs were bowled as cricketers and ground staff battled with rain, sleet, thunder and bad light.

Weathermen are inclined to blame the cricketers, pointing out that the season, which has started in mid-April for a decade, used to get under way only at the end of the month.

Many Aprils, like 1998, 1989, 1986, 1983, 1981, 1979 and so on were so cold, miserable and thoroughly waterlogged that they gave cricketers and the sun no chance to shine.

In 1997 Northamptonshire were snowed off on May 7. In 1976, notoriously, it snowed on cricketers on June 2, but that summer went on to be one of the hottest and driest of the century.

This year's sudden cold snap brought snow over most of Scotland and as far south as Derbyshire. The freezing temperatures, coupled with heavy showers, sleet, hail and snow are expected to spread across southern Britain today.

In Scotland Lothian and Border police reported a surge in road accidents as more than a foot of snow made driving hazardous.

Chilly start, page 44

Jockey on cheat charge

The jockey Graham Bradley was charged with conspiracy to cheat after a long-running police investigation into race fixing. The 38-year-old is accused of ensuring his horse Man Mood did not win at Warwick in November 1996 to cheat money from bookmakers. Mr Bradley was released on police bail and will appear at Bow Street Magistrates' Court today, a Scotland Yard spokesman said .... Page 44

Prodi vision for Europe

Romano Prodi wooed the European Parliament with his federalist vision and promise of Blairite reforms, saying he would work for a more integrated union with closer tax policies, leading to "true harmonisation". He also promised to make the Commission more efficient and completely transparent .... Page 14

Shipyard goes up for sale

A task force has been set up by ministers to find buyers for the Govan shipyard, put up for sale by its Norwegian owners with engineering and construction operations in northern England. The aim is to find a buyer for the Glasgow yard before orders run out in the summer .... Page 12



No bombshells dropped in sombre Blair war speech

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

GLUM is the word for MPs yesterday — all of them, supporters and opponents of the Balkan war alike. The Commons had reassembled after Easter to hear a sombre but resolute Statement from the Prime Minister.

Tony Blair's short speech was less theatrical than before, more carefully argued and in tone well judged. Flanked by all the senior figures in his Cabinet (always a sensible precaution), with the mysterious exception of the man who must find the money, Gordon Brown (always a worrying absence), Mr Blair rehearsed the familiar worries, familiar outrage and familiar determination. Beside him, Robin Cook nodded manically, George Robertson maintained a certain reserve, and John Prescott studied his fingernails.

"As I said in my first Statement to the House of Commons," the Prime Minister reminded us, "this action will take time."

Unable quite to recall Mr Blair's saying this, I checked the record. He had said the sufferings of the Kosovans would "not be ended overnight". Some 30 nights later, this seemed to understate.

Not that the mood was mutinous. "Grim" describes it better but support for the Government, though it has lost its froth, has consolidated — or that was how it felt. Few had much new to say. Sir Peter Tapsell (C, Louth & Horncastle), whose indignation had been Vesuvial last time, kept silent, perhaps humming "I told you so". Tam Dalyell made the mistake of speaking critically of the Kosovo Liberation Army (the KLA have miraculously ceased to be terrorists) and was heckled angrily for suggesting that they might be involved in drug trafficking. Alan Clark (C, Kensington & Chelsea) made the mistake of venturing praise for the Serbian people ("brave Christians") and was howled at for this indiscretion. From now on there are good guys and bad guys and no shades between.

Mr Blair's sobriety impressed but the spectacle of the British Left in bombing mode is scary. There nothing more belligerent than a reformed pacifist. Clare Short gave the Defence Secretary encouraging pats. Inclining to His Master's Voice, David Winnick (Lab, Walsall N) pleased the Prime Minister by yapping ferociously at the heels of an imagined Milosevic. Mr Winnick is putting the "creep" into mission-creep.

William Hague sounded sane but his interventions on Kosovo have somehow lacked coherence. One remains unsure what, if anything, he is actually trying to say.

By contrast, Paddy Ashdown was crisp. The Liberal Democrat Leader wanted guidance on the meaning of Mr Blair's new phrase: "permissive environment".

The phrase replaces Blair's former insistence that Nato troops would have to be invited into Kosovo. But what, asked Ashdown, *is* a permissive environment? We wondered whether it is what a squatter encounters, finding a window open and the householder absent.

But Blair refused to speculate and told Ashdown, in the tone of a pestered parent, that this was "all being considered", adding: "This is a situation in which we have considered all the right options."

"So that's all right then," spluttered some doubting Thomas. Anyway, said Blair, "it's a mistake to say Milosevic isn't hurting". Ashdown had said nothing of the kind. Nobody doubted it was hurting. What some doubted was whether it was working. But only a few had any doubt that Nato should keep trying.

"This is military action for a moral purpose," declared Blair. The fastidious shuddered at this dangerously close brush with a soundbite but a more downcast kind of rectitude soon reasserted itself.

Nobody at Westminster is crowing, praise be.

Railways are worse now than under BR

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE railways are in a worse condition than they were under British Rail, according to a critical government report on Railtrack's first four years.

Railtrack, Britain's biggest rail company, is blamed for under-spending on replacing worn-out parts of the system and for risking long-term deterioration of the network. The company is also accused of spending heavily on short-term improvements but failing to invest sufficiently in changes that would bring long-term benefits.

Huge variations exist between regions in the quality of the network, the report says, with the Midlands and West Country faring worst, and Scotland and southeast England doing best.

John Prescott, the Transport Secretary, said that the report painted a "sorry picture of Railtrack's performance". He indicated that stricter regulation would be introduced and subsidies to the company would be controlled more tightly.

In addition, Railtrack faces the likely imposition of hefty fines if it fails to meet targets for improving train delays. It barely achieved half of last year's targets.

However, Railtrack defended its record and said that many of the failings had been in its first two years before it was privatised in 1996. The company, which makes a profit of more than £1 million a day, said the report had pointed out many improvements. It warned Mr Prescott that tighter regulation could jeopardise its ability to carry out a £27 billion investment programme over the next ten years.

The independent study of Railtrack investment, by the international consultants Booz-Allen and Hamilton, is the most comprehensive carried out. It concludes that that the company's performance in renewing the network has been "below expectations".

Although the report says that renewal of track has been better than expected, changes to other crucial parts of the network had fallen short of initial targets. Planned major signalling schemes had been replaced by remedial work. It says that, in the first two years, Railtrack made huge improvements in cutting the number of train delays attibutable to its own faults and those by contractors, but since then has made little progress.

Gerald Corbett, Railtrack's chief executive, said: "We accept many of the criticisms but the report does say we have improved punctuality. If politicians want a regime in which they have greater control, they will miss the opportunity for investment that we now offer. There are big problems in performance but our investment plans are the solution. There are many good things happening and Mr Prescott must not throw out the baby with the bathwater."



William Hague arrives at Tunbridge Wells Grammar School yesterday for the launch of the Conservatives' local election campaign

Hague begins low-key poll campaign

Parties underplay their chances in town hall elections, reports **James Landale**

WILLIAM HAGUE shunned the national spotlight yesterday to launch his party's local election campaign at a school in true blue Tunbridge Wells in Kent.

The move sparked confusion at Westminster over the Tories' declared aim of using the campaign to boost the party leader's public profile. Mr Hague deliberately ignored the main press launch in London in favour of the low-profile visit to a grammar school with media access limited to the BBC and a news agency. Tory officials said this was simply to avoid a press scrum disrupting the school.

Michael Ancram, the party chairman, insisted that Mr Hague was "leading from the front" by taking the campaign straight to local people. His visit, officials said, was part of the Tory election strategy of portraying the party as the "champion" of local issues and local people against the heavy hand of government.

But the confusion prompted Labour to brand Mr Hague as a "dejected of Tunbridge Wells" who was "sheltering" in Kent rather facing the media in London.

The Tory launch came as all parties began fighting to establish benchmarks for what would and would not be successful election results. The Tories insist that a net gain of some 400 council seats on May 6 would reflect their current 29 per cent poll rating and anything above would be a bonus. But the Liberal Democrats, whose campaign was launched by Paddy Ashdown yesterday, claim anything less than a gain of 2,000 would be a disaster for Mr Hague. This would bring the Tories back to their town hall strength in 1995 just before these seats were last contested.

At the same time, Labour claims that they are set for a gloomy result, potentially losing up to 2,000 seats. In practice, all parties are underplaying their own chances and overemphasising their opponents' prospects.

Mr Ancram was particularly downbeat: "We are being very realistic. We are starting off on an opinion poll rating below what we got at the general election. We have a very hard campaign in front of us."

He dismissed Labour claims that the Tories have to gain at least 1,400 seats as "hype" and he suggested that Labour might benefit from Tony Blair's current role as a war leader. The Tories also published a dossier of what they said were examples of Labour and Liberal Democrat "sleaze and incompetence" in local government.

Mr Ashdown refused to comment on Mr Hague's apparent relaunch and new strategy. "I never intrude on other people's grief," he said.

He said the Tories' claim to be champions of local democracy was "rank hypocrisy" and his attacked Labour for "promising much but delivering little" in local government.

Chris and Debbie are Tory kitchen cabinet

BY TIM HAMES AND ADAM SHERWIN

AFTER the Gold Blend couple, meet Chris and Debbie, the Tory Blend pair. The Conservative Party will unveil a married couple as the stars of its new election broadcasts, but at least this domestic drama can claim brevity as its saving grace.





John Macneill and Jonell Elliott as the "typical" Tories Chris and Debbie

In a concession to viewers, the party has produced the shortest broadcast legally permissible, a mere two minutes and forty seconds.

When the "blipvert" broadcast is aired in Wales tonight, viewers will be introduced to Chris and Debbie, representatives of Middle Britain, who will articulate what the Tories see as the nation's concerns around their kitchen table.

The pair, played by actors, are a typical young married couple without children. Chris is a sales manager for a computer company, Scottish, in his mid 30s, who supported the Conservatives under Margaret Thatcher but who bolted to Tony Blair in 1997. Debbie is a part-time fitness instructor, English, in her late 20s, who, after some agonising, stuck with the Tories last time.

Chris moans about his hangover, Debbie is concerned about hospital waiting lists. In future broadcasts, they will chew over the alleged inevitability of the euro before deciding that something "unattractive, unknown and unpopular" cannot be inevitable. The Shadow Cabinet will have no role in the broadcasts.

The couple will appear in Conservative broadcasts until the European elections in June — and possibly beyond, if they succeed in improving the Tories' electoral performance.

The man who created Chris and Debbie hopes the couple will prove as popular as the last pairing he helped to engineer: the *Big Breakfast* team of Johnny Vaughan and Denise Van Outen. Ceri Evans, director of presentation at Conservative Central Office, launched Johnny and Denise during his time as creative director of Channel 4. The principle behind Chris and Debbie is the same: "It's about making people feel comfortable with having the couple in their living rooms," he said.

Mr Evans, 37, has achieved an ambition by shortening the length of party political broadcasts: "Less is more in communication terms. Any longer than a couple of minutes and you are intruding."

He worked on a brief sketched out by William Hague. "William wanted a reflection of what he had heard informally at countless 'Listening to Britain' meetings. He wanted to hear the language people had used to talk about their lives. I developed the characterisation and the setting."

Special attention has been paid to getting the right kitchen table: "It isn't an Ikea table, it is made in Britain. We want a kitchen that looks like everywhere, anywhere," Mr Evans said.

Chris is played by John Macneill, 34, a Scot, and Debbie by Jonell Elliott, 29, from London. The pair have a history that might not make them obvious role models: Elliott, a former Grange Hill tomboy, starred in Anthony Shaffer's graphic play *Murderer*, which opens with a 20-minute depiction of a woman being disembowelled. Macneill played the lead in a theatrical production entitled *Gratuitous Sex and Violence*.

Central Office has told them not to talk about their roles, lest their political views contradict their portrayals. "We picked the best actors for the roles. We did not pick them for their politics," Mr Evans said.

Jail officers 'should be more like nurses'

BY RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

PRISON officers should deal with offenders with the same caring attitude as nurses have for hospital patients, the Chief Inspector of Prisons says today. Sir David Ramsbotham calls for ruthless action by Prison Service managers to rid jails of a culture in which prisoners are treated as subordinates and staff resist change and improvements in conditions.

Sir David's annual report makes a strong attack on old-style practices and attitudes, including the "dodging" of responsibility by management. The Chief Inspector says: "There are masses of people who are motivated by wanting to work with prisoners. They feel there is something wrong with some of the old-style culture that treats a prisoner as somebody who is a subordinate.

"You need the same responsibility of care for a prisoner as a nurse has over a patient in hospital."

He calls on older staff in many of the 135 jails in England and Wales to change their approach towards prisoners to one of "human engagement", and urges Martin Narey, the new Director-General of the service, to mount a determined offensive against the old culture.

"It is inward-looking, it is a blame culture and it does the name of the Prison Service no good," Sir David says. He accuses some older officers in jails of maintaining the historic culture by "domination and intimidation, a pernicious way of influencing colleagues".

In some prisons, good practice exists alongside poor practice because staff have had the guts to stand up to intimidation, he says. Sir David accuses some jail staff of showing cynicism for programmes with prisoners, opposing the need to change long-established working practices and making continual challenges to the legitimate authority of the prison service.

He says that too often existing industrial relations arrangements result in procedures being used that drag on for months, delaying and disrupting the implementation of improvements in the treatment of prisoners.

Sir David blames the management of the service and the Prison Officers' Association for the existing state of industrial relations.

He hopes that the changes can be implemented throughout the service without a battle in which a lot of people are wounded, although most senior prison governors would disagree because of the power of the Prison Officers' Association and its capacity to cause disruption. The annual report calls on senior management in the Prison Service to be much tougher in insisting on maintaining standards in jails. Sir David is understood to be furious at the failure of governors and area managers in some parts of the country to act on appalling conditions found in some jails and young offender institutions.

□ The Chief Inspector also highlights the growing number of prisoners over 60, including one 87-year-old in Wymott prison who moves around with the aid of a Zimmer frame. In 1997, there were 837 prisoners over the age of 60 including 226 men serving sentences for sexual and violent offences. One 76-year-old man recently detained in Norwich prison had been arrested on his 52nd wedding anniversary.

STRAW TACKLES PROBATION SERVICE

Jack Straw has criticised the Probation Service for failing to take tough action on offenders who miss interviews. The Home Secretary said it was difficult to understand why offenders were able to miss three interviews before breach action was triggered. In an effort to get rid of the public impression that community sentences are soft, the community service order is to be renamed the criminal work order and a probation order is expected to become the community supervision order. Mr Straw unveiled plans to cut the number of local probation services from 55 to 42. The service will be headed by a National Director with chief probation officers, who will be paid by and appointed by the Home Office. Leading article, page 19

NEWS IN BRIEF

Dogs of war to be regulated

Robin Cook is to draw up proposals for regulating the activities of British mercenaries after the arms-to-Africa affair. The Foreign Secretary will suggest legal curbs that would apply to British military firms operating outside the United Kingdom and its dependencies.

The decision is the first response from the Foreign Office to the highly critical report from the Foreign Affairs Select Committee into the department's conduct over Sierra Leone and the breaching of a UN arms embargo. Mr Cook accepted many of the committee's recommendations, including the call for a Green Paper on mercenaries to be published within 18 months.

Chipperfield to give up licence

Mary Chipperfield, the circus trainer fined for beating a young chimpanzee, is giving up the licence held by her company under which she was allowed to keep wild animals at her Hampshire property. A spokeswoman for Test Valley Borough Council said yesterday that an application to transfer the licence for the premises at Over Wallop, to an un-named third party, had been made in December last year.

Diagnosis delay linked to deaths

Delays in diagnosis by an NHS breast screening unit could have led to the deaths of up to 11 women, the Royal Devon and Exeter Healthcare NHS Trust said. The women were among 61 found to have cancer out of 2,125 cases reviewed after failings were discovered in 1997 in the unit. The figures were released after the trust board considered the findings of an inquiry into complaints against John Brennan, the consultant radiologist in charge.

Language gap led to death

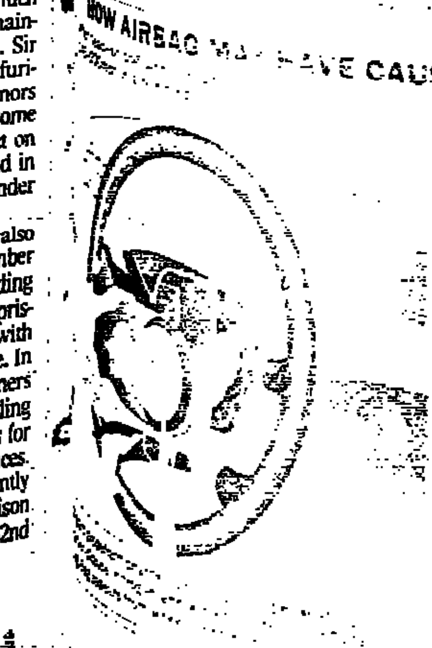
A communication breakdown between Japanese and British staff led to an engineer, Clifford Whitelock, 66, being crushed to death when a glass polishing machine was turned on as he worked on it at a television factory, Cardiff Crown Court was told. NEG and Tarmac were each fined £110,000 and the sub-contractors Westside Engineering of Caerphilly were fined £10,000. All three firms admitted breaching health and safety laws.

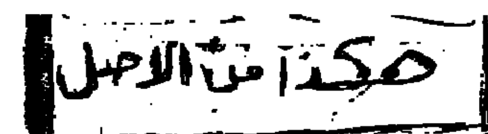
Duck patrols on 24-hour alert

A duck called Beatrice was under 24-hour protection last night to stop developers evicting her from her nest and taking away her eggs. The organisers of a £15 million project to modernise Bath's spas have confirmed that they wish to move the duck, which is holding up the development, and send her eggs to a wildfowl sanctuary for artificial incubation. She cannot be moved without a licence from the Department of the Environment.

Advice on safer sex is ignored

Only 25 per cent of adults have changed their lifestyle because of the existence of HIV and Aids, and 56 per cent have not taken the disease into account before having casual sex, according to a MORI poll for the Terrence Higgins Trust. It found that 7 per cent of people had unsafe sex when starting a relationship. The number of newly-diagnosed cases of HIV infection rose to 2,828 in 1998, the highest annual total to be recorded.





Barclays banked on US saviour

The ideal man to revive an ailing bank . . . Caroline Merrell on a bleak outcome

THE appointment two months ago of Mike O'Neill, a 52-year-old American banker and former US Marine, as chief executive of a major British bank was accompanied by a blaze of publicity.

Mr O'Neill, recruited from the Bank of America, was to unite the Barclays board in the wake of the sudden departure of Martin Taylor at the end of last year. In the event, the exit of Mr O'Neill was even more sudden: the man taken on to revive the bank's ailing fortunes lasted just one day because of ill-health.

Mr Taylor had left Barclays abruptly after falling out with other executives about the future direction of the bank. He received a £1.5 million payoff. The bank trawled Europe and America to find a replacement, and all the bank's top executives were considered.

Mr O'Neill appeared to be the perfect candidate, and the bank was prepared to pay him £7 million. He had spent 23 years in banking and had overseen the merger of two of America's biggest banks. He was also, he claimed, a confirmed Anglophile, having spent seven years here as a banking consultant. At only 52, Mr O'Neill saw the job as the pinnacle of his career, and Barclays saw him as its saviour.

Unfortunately, those twin ambitions suffered a sudden reversal when Mr O'Neill had a severe bout of flu. He delayed his arrival in London, originally scheduled for March 26, and then, last Wednesday, he collapsed in California.

After extensive tests in America, he was found to have an arrhythmic (irregular) heartbeat. According to the US doctors, the condition could worsen *under stressful conditions.* They advised him against continuing with the Barclays job.

He immediately contacted Sir Peter Middleton, the group chief executive, who has been standing in since the departure of Mr Taylor. Sir Peter was understandably alarmed and advised Mr O'Neill to fly to London to discuss the matter.

He arrived in Britain last Sunday and the next day went to see the doctors, hired by Barclays, who had passed him fit originally. Their medical report backed the findings of the American doctors. The British doctors — Harley Street specialists — said that it would not be in the bank's interests for the American to take up the position. After a brief discussion between Sir Peter and Mr O'Neill, it was decided that he would leave. He was offered no compensation and he did not ask for any. As Sir Peter said: "All he has cost us was the price of a few plane tickets between here and America."

Those who saw Mr O'Neill on Monday were shocked by his appearance. When he was appointed, he appeared to be the vision of Californian fitness, slim and tanned. On Monday, he looked extremely *tired and was disappointed* about the outcome of events.

Barclays convened an emergency board meeting at 7pm on Monday and yesterday issued a terse statement. At first the share price plummeted on the news but it then made a sharp recovery.

Barclays Bank without Mr O'Neill at its helm becomes much more of a takeover target. Sir Peter must now go through the whole recruitment process again.

Business, page 23
Comment, page 25



"It's the clock we gave him for 25 minutes' service"

PAUL HACKETT

Mike O'Neill looked fit and tanned when photographed on his appointment, but colleagues said he looked tired on his brief return to the City

BANKER'S HEART BELONGS TO SAN FRANCISCO

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

THE Californian banker whose heart trouble forced him out of his job at Barclays may also have been suffering from a troubled soul — caused by a yearning to return to a city with blissful climate, high-tech health clubs and world-class private healthcare.

Michael O'Neill had reason to be homesick, not least because as chief financial officer of Bank of America he earned $9.3 million (£5.6 million) in 1997 alone — more than enough for a San Francisco lifestyle that lures a steady stream of top business figures.

The Bay Club, downtown San Francisco's most exclusive gym, occupies the basement of the Bank of America headquarters (members can surf the Internet and return e-mails while exercising). Two blocks away is a waterfront jogging path heavily used by health-conscious bankers.

The heart condition might have been spotted earlier in San Francisco, thanks to the personal trainers and physicians assigned to senior American executives by health clubs and medical insurers.

Why stress puts strain on heart

MEDICAL BRIEFING

EXPECTING a chief executive to lead an international company when he is suffering from uncontrolled atrial fibrillation, an irregularly beating heart, is like expecting Damon Hill to win a grand prix with a car in which the timing has slipped and is backfiring. Barclays Bank must have hoped that after his pre-employment medicals, Mike O'Neill would firing on all cylinders.

A pre-employment medical examination is a skilled task, requiring much experience and a wide-ranging knowledge of medicine. In many countries, such examinations include invasive investigations ranging from thallium scans for the heart to colonoscopies for the bowels.

In atrial fibrillation, the heart rhythm is irregularly irregular. This favours the production of small clots, which can cause a stroke. The tasks that one can undertake after developing atrial fibrillation depend on the underlying cause, and the degree of control that a doctor is able to achieve. A heart can be irretrievably damaged by an infection or other cause, in which case it would be unwise to continue with a stressful job.

There are four chambers of the heart, which need to beat in the correct order. The two atria fill with blood, which periodically flows into the two ventricles. These pump the blood either into the lungs or around the body. An irregular action makes itself felt as palpitations, and the inefficiency brought on by the arrhythmia may make the patient breathless, faint and, if it is persistent, abnormally tired.

With atrial fibrillation, the atria may beat up to 600 times per minute, and the ventricles will respond with up to 180 beats. Medication can slow the ventricular rhythm to 70 beats, making the palpitations no longer obvious.

Atrial fibrillation may be part of the ageing process or the result of underlying disease. If the cause is an overactive thyroid gland, it is easily corrected. If it is coronary heart disease or high blood pressure, a defibrillator is used to restore the rhythm.

The fibrillation may be symptomatic of heart failure from other causes, which may be treated with betablockers, ACE inhibitors and diuretics. Rheumatic heart disease, damage to the heart valves or excessive intake of alcohol can also cause the condition.

☐ Dr Thomas Stuttaford is a medical adviser to Barclays, but has never been involved in the case of Mike O'Neill.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

'Safety' airbag may have killed woman in head-on crash

BY RUSSELL JENKINS
NORTH WEST CORRESPONDENT

AN AIRBAG may have caused a woman's death in a head-on crash, an inquest was told yesterday. Jennifer Reichardt was said to have suffered a rare skull fracture when the inflating bag knocked her backwards into her seat's headrest with the force of falling off a building.

Her family is now calling for car manufacturers to place warnings on the steering wheels of cars with airbags, advising a minimum distance to sit from the wheel. The other car in the collision had no airbag, and the driver walked away with a cut lip.

The inquest at St Helens, Merseyside, is the first in Britain to consider whether the force of an airbag inflating contributed to a death during an accident. The case is being followed closely by manufacturers after concern abroad, especially in America where airbags have been blamed for a number of deaths, mostly of children.

Ms Reichardt, 47, a legal secretary, from Rainhill, St helens, was driving her Rover 400 at an estimated 19mph in January last year when she was in collision with a 13-year-old Opel driven at approximately 27 mph. Dr Kenneth Mason, who treated her at Whiston Hospital, said her head injuries were unlike anything he had seen in 17 years of emergency medicine: "This is the first case I have seen where I suspected it might be an airbag. I considered the possibility that the injury was caused by being thrown back by an airbag against the head restraint."

Jennifer Reichardt: family wants warnings in cars

Ernest Gradwell, a pathologist, said that Ms Reichardt had died from head injuries of a kind he had never seen before from a traffic accident. She suffered a "very uncommon" fracture which formed a ring at the base of the skull. There appeared to be no contact with the windscreen or steering wheel.

Dr Gradwell said: "Miss Reichardt received a force to the front of her skull from which she could not have survived. It would be a similar force to someone jumping from the top of a building."

PC Harry Walsh, senior vehicle examiner with Merseyside Police, thought that the injuries were caused by the airbag rather than the car's bulkhead. He agreed with counsel that manufacturers should do more to warn motorists of potential dangers. James Byrne, counsel for the family, had suggested a simple warning on steering wheels, advising a minimum distance to sit from the wheel.

Mr Byrne said: "The evidence is that an airbag which is supposed to be a safety feature has essentially shattered the skull of the driver. If it is possible for a man driving a 13-year-old car to walk away from a head-on collision without an airbag in his car, it looks like Jennifer Reichardt could have hobbled away in a plaster had she not had an airbag in her car." Airbags inflate at 140 to 200mph in one hundredth of a second, Mr Byrne said, and in the motor industry their inflators are treated as explosive devices.

Paul Leyland, 22, the other driver involved in the collision, said that his car had failed to negotiate a bend. His only injury was a cut lip. Mr Leyland was fined £250 for driving without due care and attention. The inquest, with a jury, is expected to end today.



No relief for the dying in Belgrade hospital

A nurse collects medicine bottles damaged in a raid



Bombing by Nato jets is inflicting more suffering on injured civilians, writes Tom Walker in Belgrade



A patient in the intensive care unit damaged by a Nato attack. Others received cuts from flying glass and debris

THE doctor turned away from the row of beds and looked at us with a physician's knowing eyes. Ivan, 14, said Dr Nenad Markovic, would probably die. In the background, heart monitors intermittently beeped and ventilators and respirators helping to keep the seriously injured alive hummed.

It was probably best that we did not meet Ivan's parents. Half of us were from Nato countries whose jets had that morning bombed the hospital where their only son is fighting for his life. A week ago the same harbingers of Western justice had bombed Ivan's hometown, Pristina, inflicting the gaping stomach wound that began this cruel chapter in a young life.

One of Dr Markovic's fellow consultants, Dr Radoslav Svicevic, stood at the foot of the bed and tried to reassure us that there was still hope. "Ivan, do you like Partisan?" he asked. Ivan shook his head. "What about Red Star?" Despite the tubes and drips, a smile creased his face at the mention of the football team and there was a sparkle in his blue eyes. To Ivan's right were five beds all of whose occupants were in comas, all victims of Nato bombs. A small team of doctors and nurses struggled to save a patient in another room.

No one paid much attention to us, an incongruous group of journalists dressed in green theatre gowns and slippers, as we left the intensive care unit. Dr Markovic said he feared all six patients in Ivan's row would die; certainly, the teenager opposite, Zeljko Mitic from Aleksinac, and the young soldier.

Ivan, he said, had suffered severe injuries to his stomach, spleen, liver and pancreas, and was also suffering from peritonitis. "He is in a very poor state," said Dr Markovic. "The wall of his abdomen is destroyed, and he will need many more operations if he is to make it." As we turned around for a final look, Ivan managed a feeble wave.

Given Nato's track record of blurring the distinction between military and civilian targets, the country's main hospital — Belgrade's military medical academy — was probably living on borrowed time. At 4am yesterday missiles rained down on an adjacent hangar that had once housed army lorries. At least two projectiles grazed the 14-storey hospital, blowing a hole in the entrance and smashing windows on several floors. Patients were hit by glass and debris, and staff contemplated evacuating the building.

ON OTHER PAGES

In the lecture theatre, Dr Aca Jovicici, the director of the hospital and a neuropsychiatrist, made a few observations about behavioural patterns of Western leaders. "Those who did this knew there were sick people from all over the country here," he said, beneath a military shield dating army medicine in Serbia to 1844.

"Everybody knows the hypocrisy of America," he said. "What they have done is the dance of Satan, and the human world must stop this action. These rich countries have no culture but are ruled by psychopaths who are releasing their frustrations."

Some of the worst damage was in the cardiology unit, where Miroslav Jovic, 74, suffered head wounds from the debris. There would have been many more injuries had the staff not taped up the windows a night earlier.

"He has an acute myocardial infection and he now has bad head lacerations. It's a complex situation and he's drifting in and out of consciousness," said Dr Jovica Lukic. He added: "We have many questions, but the only one we care about now is whether he will live or not."

On the 13th floor, one of the patients who was awakened by her bedside window imploding was Dragana Krstic, 23. A few hours earlier surgeons had removed a tumour from her stomach. Wheeled into a corridor, she faced the press jostling for space around her array of drips.

What would she say to the pilot of the jet, someone asked. "I could only wish for his child to have a day like I did," she said. "What did she think about Kosovo?" Her response was firm. "Kosovo is part of Serbia."

Alliance fears a spy in its ranks

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN WASHINGTON

AMERICAN and Nato officials fear that a spy within the alliance may be tipping off Belgrade about when and where to expect airstrikes.

On at least three occasions Serb authorities have cleared people from target sites shortly before they were struck, raising suspicions that President Milosevic is receiving advance warning of some Nato attack plans, according to US news reports citing officials in Washington and Brussels.

General Wesley Clark, the Nato Supreme Allied Commander, did not rule out the possibility of espionage at a news briefing yesterday but he said that steps were being taken to stop secret military plans falling into Serb hands. "Nato remains very vigilant in terms of protecting the security of its operations, and we are taking all appropriate measures in that regard," he said.

Last week a Serb military barracks was evacuated when an urgent radio message was received ordering everyone out of the building "minutes" before the target was hit by Nato bombs, the officials told ABC television news.

Similarly, although Nato had given a warning that it might strike official buildings in the centre of Belgrade, the Serbian Interior Ministry was reportedly "buzzing with activity" on the night of April 1. The following night it was completely deserted when it was struck. While the building was still burning Serb police at the scene told local reporters the ministry had been "evacuated on time".

US officials are also said to be concerned that Serb police "suddenly" sealed off a bridge to traffic immediately before a Nato airstrike.

Any leakage of bombing plans would leave Nato planes vulnerable to the Serbian air defence system since an "ambush" could be laid for the attacking planes. Nato officials are said to have tightened security surrounding operational plans while a hunt begins for the nameless suspected spy, whose nationality is also unknown.

Only the most senior military planners in Nato would have access to the top secret bombing plans. "If there is such a spy, we are talking about a top-level individual," an official in Washington said.

BALKANS SUMMARY

Italian MPs vote to send troops

Rome: The shaky centre-left coalition led by Massimo D'Alema, the Italian Prime Minister, passed the first hurdle in a critical debate on Kosovo yesterday when the Senate voted to approve the sending of 2,000 Italian troops to take part in "Allied Harbour", the Nato humanitarian mission in Albania (Richard Owen writes).

But the resolution emphasised that the troops be used only in "logistical, humanitarian and health support roles", and ruled out "any military ground intervention" in Yugoslavia. The resolution faced a stormier passage in the Lower House, where Signor D'Alema's majority largely depends on Communist MPs vehemently opposed to the Nato air raids.

Russian convoy row

Belgrade: A Russian aid convoy arrived in the Yugoslav capital after a two-day diplomatic row with Hungary over its contents. The 68 lorries were blocked because they included eight fuel tankers which Hungary feared could be used for military purposes, so violating the United Nations Security Council arms embargo on Yugoslavia. Only four tankers were allowed into the country and Russia agreed to remove five armoured vehicles. *(AFP)*

War criminal jailed

Sarajevo: This city's cantonal court jailed Goran Vasic, a Bosnian Serb arrested in a February 1998 "sting", for ten years for war crimes against civilians and prisoners of war during the Bosnia War. But lack of evidence meant Vasic was acquitted of the 1993 killing of the then Deputy Prime Minister, Hakija Turajlic, who was shot at a Serb checkpoint through the open door of a United Nations armoured vehicle. The prosecutor will appeal, seeking a harsher sentence. *(Reuters)*

Australian protest

Melbourne: Australia said it was seeking a visa for Malcolm Fraser, the former Prime Minister, to go to Yugoslavia and seek the release of two captured aid workers accused of spying. Alexander Downer, the Foreign Minister, said he was also summoning the Yugoslav Ambassador to deny allegations that Steve Pratt and Peter Wallace had been spying for Australia and to express deep concern about a trial they would face. *(Reuters)*

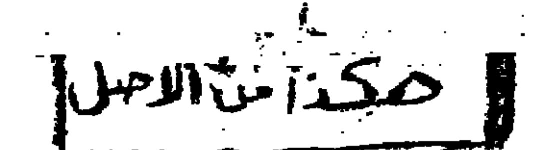
'King' backs bayonets

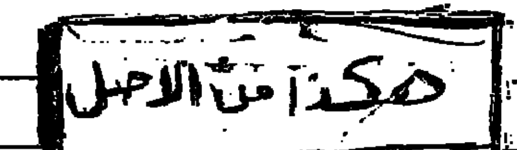


Johannesburg: King Leka, right, the exiled pretender to Albania's throne, said that Nato needed to send ground troops to Kosovo and that only self-determination for ethnic Albanians there would bring peace to the region. "You cannot hold ground by air power. The only way to hold ground is by a young 17-year-old with a bayonet," he said at his heavily guarded South African home here. *(Reuters)*

Vatican in pill protest

Rome: The Vatican criticised the distribution by United Nations agencies of the "morning-after" pill to raped Kosovar refugees. Archbishop Elio Sgreccia told *Avvenire*, an Italian religious journal, that the pill acted to abort any foetus. Ethnic Albanian refugees have told of atrocities by Serb forces, including mass rape. The Vatican withdrew its contribution to Unicef after the pill's use during the 1992-95 Bosnia war, when raped girls as young as ten risked pregnancy. *(AFP)*





Strikes on bridges strangle supplies to Kosovo

By Michael Evans, defence editor

THREE weeks ago General Wesley Clark, Nato's Supreme Allied Commander, memorably warned Belgrade that the aim of Operation Allied Force was to "systematically and progressively attack, disrupt, degrade, devastate and ultimately destroy those [Yugoslav] forces and their facilities and support".

Nearly 6,000 sorties and 1,700 bombing raids later, the Nato air campaign has succeeded, despite the poor weather, in inflicting a huge amount of damage to about 200 fixed sites, but the minimum of damage to mobile targets — Yugoslav Army, police and paramilitary units in Kosovo.

The attacks on Yugoslav troops in Kosovo began in the first week of Operation Allied Force at a time when the main focus was on destroying or disrupting the integrated air defence system. But each day, as the air campaign progressed at a steady rate, Nato officials had to admit that elements of the Yugoslav Army and Ministry of Interior police were still operating effectively against the Kosovo Liberation Army.

While this was unfortunate for General Clark whose statement of intent on March 25 may have given the impression that the Kosovo troops' days were numbered, the American commander knew that the only realistic way to affect the operations of the forces inside the province — at least during the initial stages of the campaign — was to attack other targets, many of them hundreds of miles away.

The town of Novi Sad, well to the north of Belgrade, has been hit almost as many times as Pristina, the capital of Kosovo. This is because it is the location of Yugoslav Army barracks, an oil refinery, strategic roads and bridges, all of which have a direct link to the operations in Kosovo.

The oil refinery has been hit several times, reducing, if not eliminating, its capability to turn crude oil into fuel for the tanks and armoured vehicles in Kosovo.

Similarly, the oil refinery at Pancevo near Belgrade has also taken many direct hits. The military would argue that the refineries' value for President Milosevic lay in their ability to support his war machine. Roads and bridges are, in military parlance, "lines of communication", and oil refineries are the lifeblood of an army in action.

General Clark's strategy, following well-practised rules, has been to try to strangle the arteries leading to Kosovo, cutting off supplies and supply routes to isolate the 40,000 Yugoslav Army and paramilitary troops.

In three weeks, according to General Clark's damage assessment yesterday, Nato bombers and Tomahawk cruise missiles have managed to destroy 70 per cent of Yugoslavia's oil, petrol and lubricant stocks. The oil refineries at Novi Sad and Pancevo are probably beyond repair.

In other moves to create a sense of isolation for the Yugoslav forces in Kosovo, Nato has succeeded in doing sufficient damage to the country's air defence system to force the troops to take cover because they know they can no longer rely on the Yugoslav Air Force or surface-to-air missile batteries to protect them.

General Sir Charles Guthrie, the Chief of the Defence Staff, said yesterday that more than 50 surface-to-air missile sites had been attacked, the majority of them destroyed. More than half of the Yugoslav Air Force's 16 MiG29s have also been destroyed, either in the air or on the ground.

Although General Guthrie and other commanders have been reporting each day that they have intelligence of rapidly deteriorating morale among the forces in Kosovo, the physical evidence is less reassuring. Only occasionally has Nato been able to present evidence that the stranglehold strategy has produced results on the ground.

For example, it was claimed that, at one stage, fuel shortages had immobilised the 549th Motorised Brigade, a Kosovo battle group, and that it had had to wait for fuel to arrive before it could move out of harm's way.

Although one of the reasons for the Yugoslav Army's present strategy of hiding from Nato bombers may be to preserve its dwindling fuel stocks, the unexpected incursion over the Kosovo border into Albania yesterday indicated that Mr Milosevic's forces are not yet so weakened that they are ready to give up military operations.

Strangling the forces in Kosovo is not General Clark's only strategy, although it is the one which ultimately will decide whether Nato's air campaign has been a success or failure. The wider strategy is to cause long-term damage to Mr Milosevic's military infrastructure. The choice of targets bears this out.

Although Nato is not providing a running total of every category of target hit, it can be estimated that more than 10 airfields, at least 20 army headquarters and facilities, 15 or so Ministry of Interior Police and security sites, and about a half a dozen factories which Nato insists had a military function, have been attacked.

Bridges will remain among the most sensitive of targets, particularly after the missile attack on the railway bridge near Leskovac on Monday which hit a passenger train, killing ten people.

Assuming that General Clark has many other bridges on his list of targets, the risk of civilian casualties will rise. Already up to 20 bridges have been hit. They include four in or near Novi Sad, a road and rail bridge at Kusumlija, and two others at Leskovac. Some of these were hit because they contained vital fibre optic cables, others because they were key routes for fuel lorries bound for Kosovo.



Relics of Second World War hinder RAF's effectiveness

Outdated bombs frustrate Harrier pilots, writes **John Phillips** in Gioia del Colle

AN ANTIQUATED range of *weaponry, including some equipment* dating from the Second World War, has handicapped the fighting capacity of RAF Harrier GR7 ground attack jets during the *three-week-old air conflict, military* experts say.

The pilots of No. 1 Fighter Squadron based at Gioia del Colle in southeastern Italy this week adopted new "cloud-busting" techniques, *for the first time dropping* free-fall 1,000lb bombs through bad weather that previously prevented them from hitting Serb targets without an unacceptable risk of inflicting civilian casualties.

But the latest attacks, deemed to have been successful, are believed to have been heavily dependent on guidance from SAS units on the ground who are identifying targets for the £20 million jump jets.

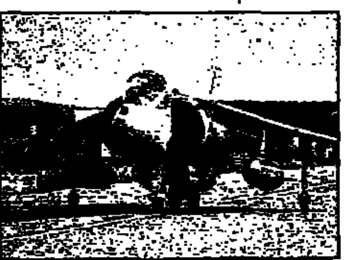
Such support may not be available later in the conflict and new weapons commissioned during the Gulf War to match the American air-fired cruise missiles are not expected to go into service for another two years.

The RAF has not disclosed how many bombs it has dropped successfully, but it has acknowledged *that as many as 11 missions* had to turn back because of cloud preventing them dropping laser-guided Paveway II bombs.

The weather cleared last week to *allow them to drop* cluster bombs for the first time. But the pilots' frustration is clear from the atmosphere in the Apulian bar where British pilots while away their time discussing tactics and drinking cocktails. Harrier pilots insist that their efforts are having an impact on the Serb military machine, inviting sceptics to consider how people at home would feel if similar raids were made on Britain.

The threat to their lives from Serbian anti-aircraft gunners when they are in the air means they have no time to be bored. "When you are operating in a *live theatre* you never have to motivate yourself," one Harrier pilot said. "We know that the Serbs are a very capable outfit. When you see Sam missile *activity, it tends to keep you on* your toes."

But it is clear that the pilots would welcome the new weapons: the Storm Shadow and Brimstone *missiles would match the Ameri*can air-fired cruise missiles, which can be aimed in thick cloud.



A Harrier at Gioia del Colle

Storm Shadow, which is being built by British Aerospace, is a long range stand-off attack missile that will combine pinpoint accuracy with effectiveness.

Also expected to be available for Harriers within two to four years is GEC Marconi's Brimstone missile, which will replace the BL755 cluster bomb to provide a lethal anti-armour capability while minimising the risk to attacking aircraft.

The cluster bomb entered RAF service in 1972. The standard 1,000lb Paveway II general purpose bomb has been in service *since 1979. Some of these bombs* have Second World War casings that have been repacked and are still in service, an RAF source said. The newer 2,000lb Paveway III is also available to the Harriers and has been loaded on them but has *not been dropped by them yet.*

The prototypes of Storm Shadow and Brimstone are being tested and developed at RAF Boscombe Down near Bournemouth. RAF officers say that the test programme could not be speeded up even if more money was made available by the Government. But some analysts believe extra funding could help to widen the range of the Harriers more rapidly.

The RAF argues that it would be blinkered to judge the success or otherwise of its efforts by statistics alone. As one RAF source put it: "The idea is not to make Serbia cease to exist. The idea is simply to stop the humanitarian atrocities."

RAF sources say that a mistaken public perception of warfare has been created by films such as *Star Wars* in which the enemy is vaporised. In real combat where civilian casualties are unacceptable, there are different kinds of strike. "If *you want to take out a tank, for ex*ample, you can take out its barrel so it can't shoot, take out its optics so it can't aim or take out its crew. You can take out its tracks or its en*gine to prevent it being used.* You don't have to vaporise it."

However, if the introduction of new weapons is not accelerated, the RAF may see itself sidelined by the US Air Force.



The bridge and train at Leskovac, hit by "uncanny" accident

'Error' led to train bombing

From Charles Bremner *in Brussels*

NATO yesterday gave a detailed account of what it called the "uncanny accident" that led one of its pilots to hit a passenger train in Serbia with two guided bombs, killing ten passengers.

General Wesley Clark, the Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, said the pilot had launched his first laser-guided bomb several miles from the railway bridge over the river Morava at Leskovac on Monday. He steered it towards its target visually by remote control.

"As he stared intently at the *desired aim-point on the bridge,* at the very last instant he caught a flash of movement that was the train coming in. It was the last *second. Unfortunately he couldn't* dump the bomb at this time. He realised what had happened was that he had not hit the bridge, he had hit the train."

*The pilot compounded the disas*ter by making a second approach to the bridge. "He aimed at the other end of the bridge . . . unfortunately at the last minute he realised the train had slid forward . . . by striking the other end of the bridge he actually caught the train."

The pilot and Nato regretted the loss of life, said General Clark. Belgrade has accused the allies of deliberately targeting the train.

Serb soldiers using rape as tactic of war

Elizabeth Judge reports on the desperate shame felt by Muslim women

BRITAIN yesterday accused Serb forces of systematically raping ethnic Albanian women as the first victims recounted horrific ordeals.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said that Serb security forces were using a barracks near the Albanian border for the repeated abduction and rape of Kosovan Albanian women and girls. Human rights officials said that the practice — a war crime — was being used to terrorise and destroy the community.

"We are now getting a pattern of repeated reports that young women were separated from the refugee columns and forced to endure systematic rape in an army camp at Djakovica, near the Albanian border," Mr Cook said.

The reports, from refugees fleeing into Albania, have taken time to emerge because of the women's reluctance to tell of their experiences. "It is a source of shame in their society as well as great shame on those who carry out such appalling crimes," he said, adding that the number of independent accounts gave the tales "a ring of corroboration".

Several victims gave harrowing accounts of their ordeals yesterday. Many remained nameless, fearful of the stigma attached to rape in a mainly Muslim society.

One victim, "Drita", described how she and seven other women were separated from their families. Wringing her hands and speaking in faltering tones, she told a BBC reporter that they were gang-raped by Serbian soldiers and that four of the women were later killed. One was seven months pregnant.

She said: "They started to shoot everywhere and then they told us to leave the house. Four of them were with masks. One was from my village, he started to hit me and the others. The captain told my father, your daughter is good for wife, for Serbian wife. One of them had sex with me, the other hit me, the others kissed me."

In a voice racked with disbelief, she continued: "At that moment I thought God doesn't exist. I thought they wanted to kill me, but no. They didn't want to kill me. I wanted to kill myself. Nobody knows what really happened to me."

She added: "My friends think I am crazy when I scream at night."

An older woman from the same north Kosovo village alleged that soldiers separated women from their families and then raped ten by the roadside. "They said to the girls: 'You are beautiful. You are for me. We are not going to shoot you, but we want your families to see what we are doing.' They threw the girls to the ground, and then with their knives, they tore every part of their clothing," she said.

ARMANDO BABANI / EPA



An ethnic Albanian boy queues for food at a refugee camp near Tirana yesterday. Aid workers have been hindered by banditry and feuding

An elderly man said that soldiers forced him to watch as a family member was raped in front of him. He said: "I have seen it with my own eyes. I couldn't move. I had a Serb soldier either side of me. They wanted me to see it."

Human rights groups said that rape was being used as another way of destroying the ethnic Albanian community. Helen Bamber, Director of the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture, said: "Rape is being used as a weapon of war ... It is not only the rape but the blatant way in which it is taking place that is so disturbing. It is an attempt to destroy as much of the cohesion of the community as possible."

Investigators from the International War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague arrived in Albania to begin gathering evidence. Silvia Miria, director of the Counselling Centre for Women and Girls in the Albanian capital, Tirana, has already amassed the testimonies of more than 100 witnesses to Serb acts of rape and sexual violence.

She said: "We are concerned that systematic rape is a strategy of the Serbs just as it was a strategy used by the soldiers in Bosnia. It takes a great deal of courage to speak about it, but these women believe they have been victims not only of rape but of war crime. It is the only thing keeping them alive."

Battle spills into Albania after clashes on border

Thousands of Albanians flee frontier villages as Serb forces in Kosovo invade neighbour, writes Sam Kiley in Kukes

CLASHES on the Yugoslavia-Albania border escalated into a Serb invasion yesterday, sparking fierce fighting around two Albanian villages after five days of shelling.

The incursion by Serb forces followed a now-familiar pattern from Kosovo, including the burning of homes, and attacks on civilians. The Albanian Government denied there had been an invasion but the incidents are likely to stiffen the resolve of the Pentagon.

The Albanians had been ordered to resist Serb border provocations. Army bases have been set up several miles from where the Serbs have fired into Albanian territory.

Yesterday Belgrade clearly intended to raise the stakes in the region by threatening Albania with war, after the Government has enthusiastically endorsed plans for 8,000 Nato troops to be sent here and called for an even greater number.

Serb forces yesterday took Kamenica, a hamlet close to the border, close to a key supply base for the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) after shelling it for several days, Petro Koci, the Albanian Interior Minister, said.

Local people fled the area, already been plagued by banditry and a tradition of blood feuding among clans which had created severe difficulties for aid groups trying to help refugees as well as for Nato special forces soldiers trying to get into Kosovo to illuminate mobile Serb targets.

Yesterday morning the Albanian border police were attacked by Serbs who then charged into Albania supported by mortar and artillery fire. Between 3,000 and 4,000 people fled the area before the Albanian Army joined the battle. By yesterday afternoon, Albanian television said that the Serb forces had withdrawn across their own border.

Yugoslav generals and ministers have repeatedly warned all countries hosting the rebel KLA and Nato forces that they risk being attacked. There is no question that Albania, which has absorbed 314,000 refugees from Serb "ethnic cleansing" atrocities in Kosovo, has been giving the rebels a free hand to organise attacks on Serb positions from inside Albania.

Albanian artillery positions have been reinforced along its northern border with Kosovo.

But, so far, they have resisted the temptation to retaliate against Serb shelling. "We have seen the flames from the houses of Kamenica and Padesh, [a small hamlet the area]," said Pier Gonggrijp, an observer with the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), which monitors the border.

Artan Jakupi, an OSCE translator, said he saw his own house in Kamenica burning, along with several others.

"I was expecting this to happen. They have been firing at us," he said.

The Interior Minister and observers said they thought that about 100 Serb troops took part in the invasion which came about five days after the KLA had tried to send about 600 men into battle in eastern Kosovo.

Aid agencies, Nato and the KLA are all extremely worried about the condition of up to 700,000 Kosovo Albanians still trapped in the region. Many are believed to be being used as human shields against Nato airstrikes on Serb infantry and armoured columns.

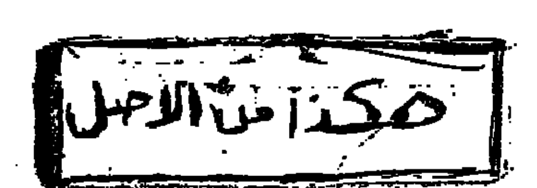
But the KLA has claimed that up to half a million refugees, most of them men who feared being murdered by Serb death squads, are living behind KLA lines and now face food shortages.

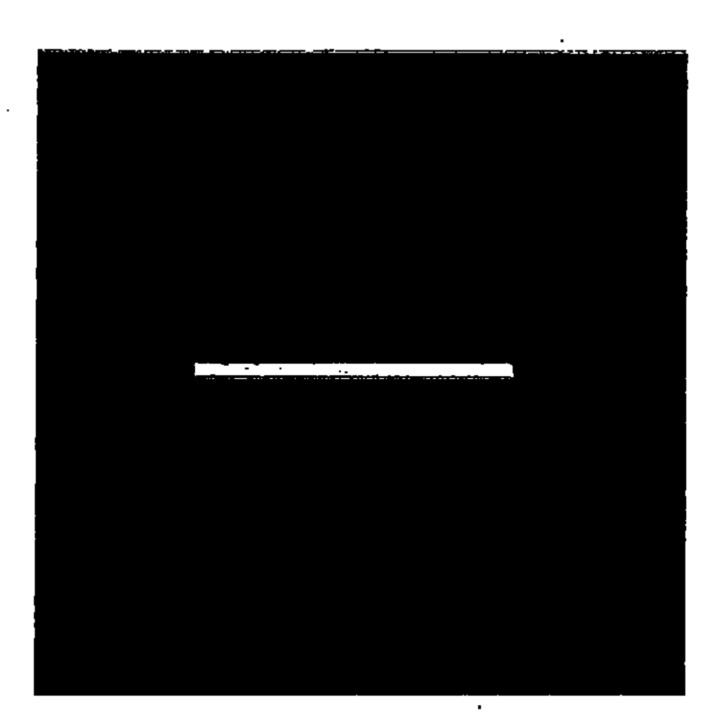
"There are many, many, who are starving to death. Our aim is to get in there and protect them. The Serbs are trying to stop us and that's why they are attacking inside Albania," said a KLA commander in Kukes yesterday.

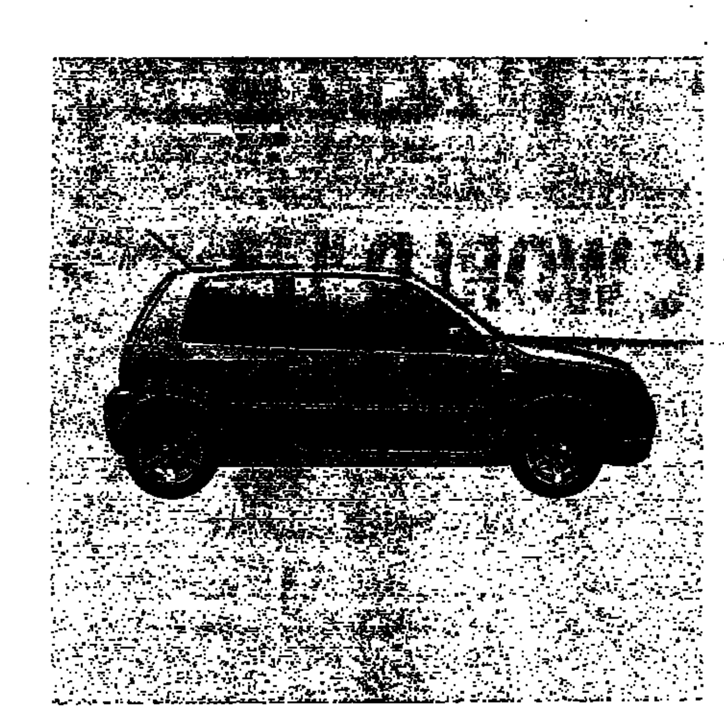
Enervated by the Serb invasion, Pandeli Majko, the Albanian Prime Minister, held an emergency meeting with Luan Hajdaraga, his Defence Minister, and Aleks Andoni, the Albanian Army Chief of Staff, and pledged to co-ordinate a response closely with Nato which is setting up its headquarters in the Albanian Ministry of Defence.

MONTENEGRO
SERBIA
Serbs cross border here
Pristina
Tropoje
KOSOVO
Bajram Curri
Kamenica
ALBANIA
20 miles
Former Yugoslav Republic of MACEDONIA

'MILOSEVIC WILL PAY' ... PAGE 8







BALKANS WAR: ALLIED RESOLVE

Milosevic 'will pay in full for atrocities'

Philip Webster reports on Tony Blair's insistence to the Commons that the Nato offensive has a moral purpose

PRESIDENT Milosevic and his generals were warned by Tony Blair yesterday that they will be held responsible for any harm that comes to the half million Kosovan Albanians who have been driven from their homes but remain within the province.

In a Commons statement, the Prime Minister said that Nato's military action had a moral purpose as much as a strategic interest. The barbarity perpetrated on civilians in Kosovo, simply on the ground of their ethnic identity, could not be be allowed to succeed.

In a clear warning to Serbian military commanders that they could be tried for war crimes, Mr Blair said that Mr Milosevic's forces were continuing their "ethnic cleansing" but at a reduced level. "As a result of Nato action to date, the pace has significantly diminished," he said. "His tanks have to conceal themselves from Nato aircraft. His fuel supplies are running low. Many have sought refuge in the hills and forests of Kosovo. We are looking at all the options to assist them.

"Let me say this clearly: Milosevic is responsible for the welfare of those people. When we go into Kosovo finally, he will be held responsible for what we find."

Later, he added: "If he, or anyone else has committed crimes and the International War Crimes Tribunal indicts them as war criminals, we will pursue them in the same way we are still pursuing those people from Bosnia. We are picking them up. They are being indicted and they are being taken to The Hague and we will carry on doing that."

Mr Blair said that the extra 1,800 troops were being sent so Britain "could be in a position to play our proper role in the effort to ensure the refugees are able to return to Kosovo in safety".

Mr Blair, reporting to a sombre House on military developments during the Easter recess, told MPs that the allied action would take time to succeed, but there could be no compromise in the battle to defeat "ethnic cleansing".

The Nato action appeared still to have backing on all sides of the House, although there were a few dissenters.

Mr Blair said that every day the air attacks were causing further damage to "Milosevic's military machine".

He told those who had called for more negotiations: "We struggled for a year to find a solution for Kosovo by peaceful means, despite Milosevic's brutality on the ground. We intervened when the diplomatic avenue was exhausted and when the hideous policy of 'ethnic cleansing' was under way."

He described the difficulties of sending in any ground forces as "formidable". "In present circumstances, the potential loss of life among our servicemen and women, to say nothing of civilians, would be considerable."

But he added: "There can be no compromise on the terms we have set out. They must be met in full."

William Hague said that the Opposition continued to back the Nato campaign. He said that Mr Blair had rightly described Mr Milosevic as a dictator and spoken of the need for war crimes investigations, adding: "How does he view the likelihood of us now being able to negotiate a political settlement with Milosevic?"

Mr Blair said it was not a question of negotiating. "It is a question of him meeting the terms Nato has set out. And there will be no compromise on those terms. They will be secured in full."

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said he had yet to see evidence that Milosevic had been forced to do something he did not intend to do. "We have not yet forced him to take action.

"These operations," he added, "still have a long way to go. There will be setbacks, including casualties, among them no doubt unintended civilian casualties."

Martin Bell, the former BBC war correspondent and Independent MP for Tatton, said: "It is clear that we are in the presence of the greatest war crimes in Europe for more than half a century. Yet we continue to respond with air power and air power alone."

He challenged Mr Blair: "Is it not true that circumstances on the ground can only be changed by boots on the ground?"

Mr Blair replied: "I simply ask people who say that we should put in ground forces now to just reflect on what an undertaking that is."

Alarm over Russian ties

PREVENTING the West's links with Russia from collapsing has emerged as the critical issue of the Kosovo crisis, a committee of MPs has said (Roland Watson writes).

In a report published yesterday, the cross-party Defence Select Committee said the bombardent of Serbia presented "the greatest test of Nato's credibility since the end of the Cold War". The MPs urged Nato to maintian its dialogue with countries like Russia and Ukraine. They also stated that Nato is the only military organisation capable of "rapid and decisive action" on behalf of the United Nations. "This capability must not be jeopardised."


TOR RICHARDSEN / EPA

Madeleine Albright meets reporters after her Oslo talks yesterday

Moscow insists air war must end

By Charles Bremner

RUSSIA and the United States claimed progress yesterday in joint efforts to end the conflict in Kosovo, but Igor Ivanov, the Russian Foreign Minister, insisted that the Nato air campaign must stop and Belgrade's consent was needed before any foreign forces entered the Serbian province.

After four hours of talks in Oslo, Mr Ivanov and Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, said they had "narrowed differences" in their approach to President Milosevic. The session produced no breakthrough in the allies' push to bring Russian pressure to bear on Mr Milosevic, but there was none of the acrimony of recent statements from President Yeltsin about the danger of a new world war.

The main sticking point was over a Nato force in Kosovo to protect the population. Mr Ivanov noted that Belgrade was refusing to consider the entry of any foreign troops without its assent. Moscow eventually could accept a UN presence in the province, he said, and, with an eye to the Serbians, he added: "We are against any form of violence, irrespective of who is committing it."

MPs dig in for long and bloody battle

Peter RIDDELL ON POLITICS

'The aims are clearer, but few seem sure of how we get there'

The ends are broadly agreed, but the means remain cloudy. Backing at Westminster for the Nato military action in Kosovo has increased since before Easter. Reports about Serb atrocities and the plight of the refugees have solidified support for the bombing campaign and for the Nato aim of securing the "unconditional and safe return of all refugees" protected by a Nato-led international force.

But doubts remain about how these objectives can be achieved, echoing similar concerns heard in Washington as Congress returned from a two-week recess.

In both London and Washington, legislators talk of shock among constituents about the harrowing pictures from Kosovo. But this is linked to uncertainty. After Congressional leaders met President Clinton, *The Los Angeles Times* reported "there is still no consensus in either party on such key issues as how long the air campaign should last, when ground forces should be sent and how much money Congress is willing to spend".

The mood in the Commons was subdued as MPs heard the first report from Tony Blair on Kosovo for nearly a fortnight. There was a general acceptance both of the necessity of the action and its probable length. Its opponents were still there — Tony Benn, Tam Dalyell, Alice Mahon and, at his most contrary, Alan Clark. But they are clearly a minority. Even the hard-left Campaign Group is split, more so than during the Gulf War.

On the Tory side, Mr Clark apart, the pre-Easter critics were more muted and apparently more reluctant to rock the boat. William Hague was cautious, expressing general support and asking a series of probing questions on the aims, the Kosovan Albanian refugees and the role of ground troops, as a Leader of the Opposition should.

MPs reflected the public mood, since repeated polls have shown rising support for the air campaign.

If there is now more clarity about overall aims, and greater agreement about them, few MPs appear sure about how we get from here to there. Even if "ethnic cleansing" has not been stopped, the air campaign is clearly now damaging Serbian military capacity.

To portray the issue as being for or against ground troops is a gross oversimplification. The choice is more subtle.

A land force invasion is still ruled out, even though many MPs regard that as inevitable — and the commitment of ground troops now has growing support in polls in Britain, the United States, Germany and France.

Mr Blair was insistent that "the difficulties of such an undertaking, in the face of organised Serb resistance, are formidable". Not only would the potential loss of life be "considerable" but "assembling such a force would take weeks".

Nato has talked of using ground troops only in a "permissive environment". But Mr Blair made clear that this does not mean reaching an agreement with Belgrade before troops can be deployed.

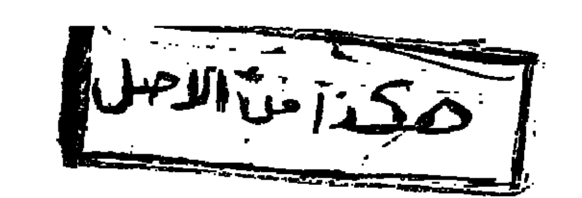
As Paddy Ashdown said, there is a crucial distinction between using ground troops when the risks are permissible, which would be reasonable, and when President Milosevic permits them, which would not be acceptable. Mr Blair stressed that Mr Milosevic has no veto.

So with a further 1,800 British troops being sent to Greece and Macedonia, and the US expanding its forces, the option is being created of an intervention on the ground to protect the return of the refugees. This would be when Serb military capabilities in Kosovo have been reduced even further.

Mr Blair has freedom of manoeuvre and no deadline. There is now a sombre recognition that the conflict is likely to be lengthy as well as bloody and costly.

LINKS

http://www.nato.int/ — Nato site
http://www.iwpr.net/ — The Institute for War & Peace Reporting. An independent body reporting on the Kosovo crisis
http://www.unhcr.ch/news/media/kosovo.htm — UNHCR website. Reports and updates
http://www.amnesty.org/ailib/intcam/kosovo/indx_lst.htm — Amnesty International website
http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/missions/kosovo.htm — Médecins sans Frontières website
http://www.icrc.ch/ — International Committee of the Red Cross. Reports and details on how to donate



Drop in or log on to Blair's new NHS

Plans aim to help patients to help themselves, reports Ian Murray

TONY BLAIR has unveiled his vision of a revamped NHS, which will make dropping into doctors' surgeries as easy as going shopping. Medical advice for doctors and patients will be posted on the Internet and help will also be available from 24-hour telephone lines staffed by nurses and doctors, under the plans for the NHS announced yesterday.

The Prime Minister said that the Government would provide an initial £30 million to set up 20 drop-in medical centres, mostly attached to hospital accident and emergency departments, which will be open from 7am to 10pm.

One-stop health centres, where doctors, dentists, pharmacists, opticians, chiropodists and physiotherapists will all be available, are also planned. The finance will be provided by the Government's £280 million capital modernisation fund.

The Prime Minister's vision was given the most cautious of welcomes by the doctors and health authorities who will be asked to turn it into reality. "I am not in any way trying to play down this, but we must not think this is a panacea for the ills of the health service," said Simon Fradd, who chairs the Doctor Patient Partnership and sits on the British Medical Association's GPs' committee.

"We have the lowest number of doctors per head of population in Europe and that is the fundamental problem."

Stephen Thornton, Chief Executive of the NHS Confederation, which represents all hospitals and health authorities, said: "The Prime Minister's vision requires nothing short of a complete transformation — and this when we are already struggling to cope with the day-to-day pressures of caring for and treating an ever-growing number of people in primary care and hospitals.

"The Prime Minister is right when he says that in the last two years the Government has put the building blocks of the new NHS in place, but it will require sustained effort and investment over many years to come if we are really to modernise the NHS."

NHS Direct, the 24-hour helpline, which has been piloted in three areas, is to be extended nationwide over the next year. Internet access and NHS Direct information points in surgeries, libraries, post offices and supermarkets will be provided to help people to care for themselves, together with an NHS Healthcare Guide and healthcare training sessions.

Mr Blair said that such a diverse range of health resources was necessary given the 24-hour nature of modern life: "Many people have the perception that the health service is great when you get there, but getting into it can be hard," he said.

The Prime Minister said that traditional GP surgeries would continue but would work hand-in-hand with the new one-stop medical centres, "which will simply provide a new option for people who, because of their hours or location of their job, find it difficult to see a doctor".



PICTURES BY FIONA HANSON; ADAM BROWN; DOMINIC O'NEILL

Samantha Shaw flanked by her designs worn by, left, Isabella Norman at her wedding to the late Earl Mountbatten's grandson, Timothy Knatchbull, and, right, Caprice

Sophie's choice for a royal wedding dress

Prince Edward's bride-to-be has opted for a tiny Chelsea salon, writes Susie Steiner



Rhys-Jones: dress likely to cost about £5,000

IN THE front room of a tiny ground-floor flat — a space less than ten feet wide and lined with clothing rails — the wedding dress of Sophie Rhys-Jones is being made by a young designer who has built an elite circle of clients by word of mouth.

Samantha Shaw is about to be catapulted on to the world stage after her appointment as maker of The Royal Dress was confirmed yesterday. "She said her prices are not going up. She must be joking," one of her clients said last night.

Millions will await the moment when Miss Rhys-Jones walks up the aisle to marry Prince Edward on June 19. If the Duchess of York's wedding gown is anything to go by, replicas will appear within hours. It is a daunting responsibility for a 30-year-old designer who has been in the industry for only four years and whose fashion house consists of a workshop just big enough for a two-seater sofa.

When she first started designing under her own label in 1995, Miss Shaw charged about £500 for a dress. Over the years this has risen to £1,250, and about £2,500 for a suit. Miss Rhys-Jones is expected to pay £5,000 for her wedding dress.

Miss Shaw's London salon, anonymously set within a Victorian terrace, occupies two flats on the ground and basement floors, just a stone's throw from the boutiques of King's Road and within view of Chelsea Bridge.

While the designer pins and tucks in her workshop, she is helped by two seamstresses who sew downstairs. Two rails in her room hold her day and eveningwear collections, another her fabric swatches. Miss Shaw has gained a name for herself through attention to detail, with exquisite beading and trimmings.

She is a softly spoken aristocrat who has never needed to tout for business among the wealthy urbanites who form her crowd. A scion of the McAlpine construction dynasty, she is next month to marry David Keswick, the 31-year-old son of Sir Chippendale and Lady Sarah Keswick, close friends of the Prince of Wales.

Miss Shaw designed the wedding dress of Catherine de Rham, who married Jonathan Dwek, the wealthy founder of the Planet Organic supermarket business in London, in a week-long society extravaganza in Hawaii last October.

Her most famous clients include Serena Linley, wife of the Queen's nephew, Viscount Linley. The supermodel Caprice has modelled her collections and she has designed for the actress Elizabeth Hurley and Ivana Trump's daughter Ivanka.

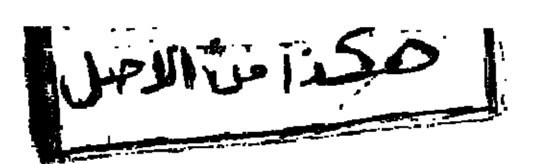
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The Woodhead ‘conspiracy’

A trio of left-wing activists wants the Chief Inspector of Schools out, Andrew Pierce reports

THE former wife of Chris Woodhead yesterday emerged from the shadows of a left-wing campaign to destabilise him and challenged the Prime Minister to dismiss him as Chief Inspector of Schools.

Behind Mrs Woodhead's carefully timed media offensive is a trio of experienced political activists. One of them, Kate Illingworth, who is a retired teacher and cousin of the veteran left-wing journalist Paul Foot, admitted yesterday that she was motivated by a political desire to topple Mr Woodhead.

"I have got an agenda against Chris Woodhead. He has humiliated the teaching profession. This is a good enough stick to use. It is a convenient stick," Ms Illingworth told *The Times.*

Few supporters of the Chief Inspector of Schools believe it was a coincidence that Mrs Woodhead made her debut on the airwaves as the House of Lords prepared to debate making it a criminal offence for a teacher to have a sexual relationship with a pupil. Until her intervention on the BBC Radio 4's *The World Tonight* on Monday night and yesterday's *Today*, Mrs Woodhead had restricted herself to one newspaper article and two newspaper interviews.

> ‘There's an agenda. This is a good stick to use’

Her left-wing teaching friends, former colleagues of the Ofsted chief at the Bristol school where he was teaching when his alleged affair took place, had made most of the running. They appear to have been motivated by a mixture of personal animosity towards Mr Woodhead, dating back to the staffroom, a desire for "the truth" to come out, and political dogma.

For 25 years Mrs Woodhead maintained a vow of silence about her husband's infidelity. Even when the *News of the World* revealed the first sketchy details of the affair three years ago she stayed silent for the sake of their daughter, according to an interview she gave in last month's *Mail on Sunday.*

She has now gone public at a time when her ex-husband — the scourge of the teaching unions because of his ill-disguised contempt for the mediocre among the profession — is down and nearly out. Mr Woodhead, who was appointed by the Conservatives and kept on by new Labour, is fighting for survival.

Mrs Woodhead's foes portray her as a vengeful former wife desperate to destroy her former husband's career. Her supporters maintain she is a dignified woman whose patience has snapped after a quarter of a century of hurt.

The turning point for Mrs Woodhead was his widely reported remarks that it could be "educative and experiential" for teachers to conduct affairs with pupils. The comment reignited interest in his relationship with a former pupil, Amanda Johnston. The final straw was Mr Woodhead's denial that the relationship took place when she was still at school — while he was allegedly telephoning his ex-wife and begging for her silence.

Supporters of Mrs Woodhead insist she is neither hellbent on revenge nor seeking his removal from office over allegations he had lied about his relationship with the sixthformer. But the former wife raised the political temperature by making herself a public figure. "Telling the truth is one of the most important things we have," she said on *Today*.

"If I find that Mr Blair knows that he [Mr Woodhead] is lying, and is prepared to accept that, then I am afraid anyone who allows lies to be carried on cannot be trusted themselves. It is an incredibly important issue," she said.

Until Mrs Woodhead's appearance on the political stage her campaign had been conducted with the aid of smoke and mirrors and the assistance of leading members of Bristol West Labour Party. Ms Illingworth, 62, a friend of hers for 25 years, has been particularly supportive.

Mr Woodhead was Ms Illingworth's head of English at Gordano School in 1974. She is one of five former teachers who have claimed that the affair with Ms Johnston had been an open secret there.

Ms Illingworth is a long-time Labour activist whose uncle is the former Labour leader Michael Foot and whose political heroes include Tony Benn; the former Cabinet minister represented a Bristol constituency before he was elected for Chesterfield. But Ms Illingworth has allowed her party membership to lapse because she is disillusioned with the Blair administration.

She said that as a head of department Mr Woodhead "was pushy, a whizzkid, with progressive ideas — not what I would call them today. Chris Woodhead has been arrogant, overbearing, critical, and had a terrible effect on the teaching profession.

"He is lying over this affair but because of his high-handed manner he thinks he is above scrutiny. Paul and I discussed this in February. We both think it is astonishing he is still there."

The actor Tony Robinson, a friend of Mrs Woodhead, is the second member of the triumvirate. He increased the pressure on the schools chief when he issued a detailed statement contradicting his version of events. Best known as Baldrick in *Blackadder*, the actor, a well-known Labour supporter, is a popular children's television presenter. He is a member of the Bristol West party.

The triumvirate is completed by Christine Purkis, who has not met Mrs Woodhead, but who gave the press details of Mr Woodhead frolicking in his underpants with sixth-form girls, including Ms Johnston, on a field trip in 1975.

"I have been waiting for a knock on my front-door from the press for 25 odd years," said the retired teacher.

"We are all friends from the Labour Party. Tony is a big player. We are not a Chardonnay-sipping left-wing cabal who sit round a dinner-table plotting. But when it hit the papers there were many of us who thought: right, here we go. It was a terrible feeling when, having made the *News of the World* two years ago, it all fizzled out. He seemed to have got away with it. It's taken a long time. But now his position is untenable."

Mr Woodhead and Ms Johnson insist that their nine year relationship did not begin until both had left Gordano.



Chris Woodhead, Chief Inspector of Schools, top, on his wedding day and, above, with Amanda Johnston; he denies having an affair with her while she was a pupil. Tony Robinson and Christine Purkis say he should quit

NEWS IN BRIEF

Girl's naked body found in alleyway

The naked body of a girl aged about 17 has been found at Guildford, Surrey. Detectives began a murder investigation after a man on his way to work saw the body lying in an alley leading to lock-up garages opposite the Civic Hall. The only obvious signs of injury were grazes to the victim's face. Police sealed off the area as forensic scientists and officers with dogs searched for clues. As door-to-door inquiries began, police started to examine hours of security camera videotapes. The body was found a few hundred yards from the town centre's nightclubs and restaurants. Detectives appealed for anyone who was out on Monday night and may have seen anything unusual to contact them.

Dog-fight man jailed

John "Rustler" Parker, a leading figure behind organised dog fights in Britain , became the first person to be found guilty of involvement without being caught at the scene of a fight. Parker, 34, was jailed for four months and banned from keeping dogs for 10 years after being convicted of causing unnecessary suffering on the RSPCA's evidence of equipment and wounded dogs found at his home in Kexby, Lincolnshire.

Touchdown accident

A passenger was seriously injured and three were slightly hurt after the nose landing gear of an aeroplane collapsed after touchdown at Manchester airport, according to a report by the Air Accidents Investigation Branch. The 54 other passengers were uninjured in the incident in March last year. Passengers on the British Aerospace ATP, arriving from Southampton, escaped via the overwing exits or from rear slides.

Rural cash machines

Cash dispensers linked to banks via satellite are to be installed in suburbs and rural districts. By the end of the year customers of all high street banks will be able to use more than 350 machines at Co-op stores, saving journeys and increasing trade for out-of-town shops. When a card is inserted, information is sent from a dish on the store roof via satellite to the customer's bank in a 100,000-mile round-trip that takes only seconds.

CS victim wins £7,000

A man has won £7,000 in damages for being assaulted by police with a CS spray. Kevin Missen, 21, was sprayed in the face in Liverpool in December 1996 as he looked into a police van to see his brother, who had been arrested for urinating in public. A charge of being drunk and disorderly orderly against Mr Missen was dismissed by magistrates and he later sued Merseyside Police.Mr Missen said: "My eyes were not right for two weeks."

Burglar's calling card

A burglar was arrested for a string of thefts after he dropped his prison discharge papers at the first break-in. Richard Brown, 25, had been released from the prison ship *HMP Weare* in Portland, Dorset, but was quickly picked up after police found the papers, which included his photograph, name, age, description and previous convictions. Brown was jailed again for 21 months by Dorchester Crown Court.

Who could step into his shoes?

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

ONE of the points in Chris Woodhead's favour in his fight for survival is the absence of a natural successor as Chief Inspector of Schools.

In his four years at the helm of the Office for Standards in Education, Mr Woodhead has not brought in his "own" people in the way that would be natural in the private sector. This means that the Government might be forced to look farther afield for a successor. Lord Haskins, for example, who runs Northern Foods, would bring a strong managerial pedigree. John McIntosh, head of the private sector Centre for British Teachers, would maintain a critical approach. He also has experience of running a large national organisation, Shelter.

Less prominent candidates from the business world might include Pat Lee, head of retail training at Tesco and a member of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority.

Mike Tomlinson, Mr Woodhead's deputy and the head of inspections, would be the natural caretaker in the event of a surprise resignation. But the 56-year-old chemist would not be a charismatic leader in the Woodhead mould.

Mr Tomlinson came to public attention as the leader of the emergency inspection of The Ridings School, in Halifax. But he blotted his copybook as a spokesman for the agency when, in an unguarded moment, he said he "did not give a monkey's toss" about teachers' views.

A more probable candidate would be Anthea Millett, who heads the Teacher Training Agency and was Mr Tomlinson's predecessor at Ofsted. But, like many of the other possible candidates from within the education world, she could be seen as more sympathetic to teachers than Mr Woodhead and therefore likely to weaken the Government's "zero tolerance" approach in schools.

Susan Lewis, Chief Inspector of Schools in Wales, has shed her normally low profile in recent evidence to the Select Committee on Education. She would be at home running the similar English system.

In the past, the Post Office has been the main supplier of appointees to senior educational posts. John Roberts, the present chief executive, would appear to have more than enough on his plate, but who knows?

Blood and tears regime earns admiration

BY JOHN O'LEARY

IF CHRIS WOODHEAD had to relinquish his post, his legacy would be a wealth of information on schools that would be the envy of other countries. But he would remain best known for his battle against the education establishment.

Since his appointment to head the Office for Standards in Education, he has waged a relentless campaign against sloppy teaching and bureaucratic incompetence.

He has sailed close to the political wind but, under two Governments, has always been able to rely on support in Downing Street. Many observers believe, however, that his standing has been so damaged by the continuing allegations of his former wife and past teaching colleagues that he will be unable to remain in the job for long.

After four years as Chief Inspector, Mr Woodhead has driven through a programme of inspections that has won support from parents and even grudging acceptance from many teachers, but his talent as a communicator has ensured he and his organisation remain controversial.

Malcolm Wicks, who chairs the Commons Select Committee on Education and Employment, said recently that there were two Ofsteds: one in which inspectors went quietly about their jobs and another "about blood and thunder and guts and tears".

This is the Ofsted likely to disappear without Mr Woodhead. Although that would be a relief to those in schools, it might not be welcome to a Government as anxious as its predecessor to maintain pressure on teachers for improved results.

Shipyard sell-off puts thousands of jobs at risk



Workers at Kvaerner's Govan shipyard going to meet management after they announced that it was to pull out of shipbuilding on the Clyde

Ministers set up task force to find a buyer before orders run out at Govan, writes Jason Allardyce

A TASK FORCE was set up last night to find new buyers for the Govan shipyard and other operations after the engineering giant Kvaerner announced a shake-up threatening 5,000 jobs.

The Norwegian firm put its Govan yard in Glasgow and engineering and construction operations in the North East and Sheffield up for sale. Lord Macdonald of Tradeston, the Scottish Business and Industry Minister, who used to work at Govan, hopes the task force can find a new buyer for the yard before orders run out in the summer.

Stephen Byers, the Trade and Industry Secretary, met John Fletcher, a Kvaerner director, last night to discuss what the Government could do to help with the sale of the English operations. "These are key manufacturing facilities which we need to secure for the future so that jobs can be protected," he said.

The sell-off is part of a worldwide review by the company after a period of severe losses. It will shed 25,000 staff worldwide. The firm announced it is to pull out of shipbuilding operations, putting yards employing nearly 2,000 people at Govan and Clydebank up for sale.

The task force, to be headed by Sir Gavin Laird, the former union leader, will seek an early meeting with the Ministry of Defence, which is expected to place a huge order for new roll-on, roll-off vessels later this year. Unions urged the MoD to bring forward the order to help Govan to attract a buyer. "Scotland needs engineering and manufacturing jobs. We simply cannot rely on call-centre, supermarket or burger bar jobs," Danny Carrigan, the Scottish regional secretary of the AEEU, said.

The Scottish National Party, which is now even more likely to win the Glasgow Govan seat in the Scottish parliament election on May 6, urged the Government to offer incentives to prospective buyers. A party spokesman said any package must be at least as attractive as the £150 million believed to have been made available to save the Rover plant in Longbridge.

If Govan does close later this year, it will be the latest victim in the dramatic decline of the British shipbuilding industry, which used to employ more than 200,000 workers in hundreds of yards in the 1920s but is now down to around 30,000 at less than 20 main centres. Lord Macdonald said he believed the yard had "considerable potential". He added: "It is now a modern, productive shipyard capable of building ships to the highest technical specification."

Labour appealed to the Scottish nationalists not to turn the closure into an election issue. But the SNP insisted that Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, must accept some blame. Nicola Sturgeon, the SNP Govan candidate who plans to meet shop stewards today, said: "Tony Blair's failure to visit Kvaerner during his recent visit to Glasgow gave the unfortunate impression that the Government was not giving top priority to the yard's problem."

Kvaerner is also reviewing its oil and gas operations in Aberdeen, London and Croydon, which employ a total of 1,600 people. Its fabrication yard at Methil, Fife, employing 315, is also under review.

Kjell Almskog, president and chief executive officer of Kvaerner, said the company's decision was not a reflection on workers at Govan: "We are exiting Govan because we are leaving shipbuilding altogether," he said.

On the prospects of selling the UK shipyards, Mr Almskog admitted the outlook was not promising. "We have to say that given the orders situation it is not going to be easy."

Business, page 23

1,500 workers in North East fear for future

By Paul Wilkinson
North East Correspondent

THOUSANDS of workers in the North of England were also contemplating a bleak future after Kvaerner's announcement of plans to sell its British subsidiaries.

There are serious doubts over the long-term future of 900 workers at the Port Clarence offshore yard in Middlesbrough and 600 at Cleveland Bridge in Darlington, which helped to build the Severn and Humber bridges. Both of these Kvaerner sites are struggling to fill their order books.

Its two Davy Roll steel fabrication plants in Gateshead on Tyneside and Sheffield in South Yorkshire, which employ almost 1,000 workers, have also been put on the market but managers there are confident they can be sold as a going concern.

Kvaerner's other interests on Teesside, its Process and Metals division at Stockton and Redpath Engineering Services at Wilton, which together have 1,500 staff, are not affected.

At Port Clarence, which last year started building the Triton North Sea oil and gas platform, a spokesman said the plant "needs new orders urgently". He said: "It is likely one of the yards will have to be downscaled. Work on the Triton platform is guaranteeing jobs until the summer, but beyond that the future is uncertain."

Frank Cook, Labour MP for Stockton North, is angry that Kvaerner is voicing no concern for the Port Clarence workers. He said: "Its explanation so far is couched in banker's speak, and nothing about how it will hit individuals." One 25-year-old worker at the yard said: "Everyone is worried about the future. We've all got mortgages and families and we just don't know what's going to happen."

SNP to concede £2bn hole in budget

By Jason Allardyce
Scottish Political Reporter

THE Scottish nationalists are to admit for the first time that an independent Scotland would have to live with a £2 billion hole in its budget.

The admission, to be made in an economic strategy paper to be published before the Scottish election on May 6, will reignite the debate over whether Scotland could afford to stand alone without being subsidised by English taxpayers.

The SNP is expected to claim that the shortfall between what is raised and what is spent in Scotland will be just under £2 billion in 2000-01 before moving into surplus.

Labour has used government figures to claim that an independent Scotland would run up a cumulative deficit of more than £15 billion over the next four years. But the SNP will argue that in relative terms, the Scottish deficit is smaller than the overall deficit for the United Kingdom. The total UK deficit stood at £32 billion according to the latest government figures for 1996-97 and the SNP will point out that Westminster has not needed to increase taxation sharply to tackle this.

The Scottish deficit was officially put at £7 billion in 1996-97, with total government expenditure of £31.8 billion as against £24.7 billion raised in revenue in Scotland. When North Sea oil and privatisation proceeds were taken into account, the figure was closer to £3 billion. Public spending was 23 per cent higher per head in Scotland than in England in 1996-97.

The SNP treasury team of John Swinney and Andrew Wilson will claim that the methodology used for official deficit figures was biased. They will say that as the UK moves towards surplus, so the Scottish deficit will shrink to around £1 billion in 2001-02 before Scotland moves into a modest surplus the year after.

The SNP also will argue that, under its calculation of Scotland's deficit, the country would still meet the qualification criteria for European Monetary Union.

The paper, entitled *An Economic Strategy for Independence*, will also point out that Professor Andrew Hughes Hallett, an adviser to the World Bank and a leading authority on the single currency, has agreed that an independent Scotland could join economic and moentary union. SNP sources say they have deliberately used worst-case scenarios to calculate the figures.

Roger Scruton, page 18

NHS lists 'longer under Labour'

CAMPAIGN FOR SCOTLAND 99

AVERAGE NHS waiting lists in Scotland under Labour are 5 per cent higher than during the Tories' final five years, a study claimed yesterday. Independent research by the City accountants Chantrey Vellacott DFK shows the average waiting list in the Conservatives' final five years was 81,568 whilst the average in Labour's first two years is 85,486.

The research also claims a 25 per cent increase, between March 31, 1997 and September 30, 1998, in the number of people who did not receive an initial hospital appointment within the Scottish Office target of nine weeks from the date of GP referral. Only after the initial consultation prescribes further treatment — in around 50 per cent of cases — do patients join the "headline" waiting list.

Salmond under fire

A teenager questioned Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, on his controversial condemnation of Nato's air attacks on Serbia during an election walkabout. Kenneth Millan, 17, said he thought Mr Salmond had been "insensitive". The party leader spent several minutes explaining his views in Livingston, West Lothian. Afterwards Mr Millan said: "I think he had a valid point but it might have been a sore time to put it. The whole country thought he was a bit insensitive." Mr Millan said he backed attacks on military targets but was worried about civilian casualties.

Drugs head to head

A drugs counsellor and former Scottish Woman of the Year is to stand against Sam Galbraith, the Health Minister, to highlight a drugs crisis. Maxie Richards, 62, named woman of the year in 1994 by a Glasgow newspaper for her work with addicts, said Mr Galbraith had ignored advice on the problem, including warnings of a heroin epidemic. The former teacher, from Bearsden, Glasgow, will compete with Mr Galbraith for Strathkelvin and Bearsden seat. She said: "Children are dying on Scotland's streets and the Government seems to be allowing it to happen."

Councillor bites back

An enthusiastic Scottish nationalist is back on the campaign trail after suffering a bad case of a dog biting the hand that pleads. Margaret Murray, a Cumbernauld councillor, had the top of her finger bitten off by a dog two days ago as she popped a campaign leaflet seeking support for local SNP candidate Andrew Wilson through a door. After receiving treatment in the accident and emergency ward at Monklands Hospital, the stoical politician who has been dubbed "The Terminator" was working as hard as ever yesterday.

QUOTE of the day

Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, claiming an SNP government would, like Quebec, hold referendum after referendum on independence if elected in May:

'It would mean a Scottish neverendum'

AGENDA

Today: Labour's Henry McLeish will visit St Stephen's School in Glasgow which runs an anti-drugs initiative. The Liberal Democrats will unveil their party election broadcast in Edinburgh, while the Conservatives will look at the economy. Nicola Sturgeon of the SNP will be talking about education. Alex Salmond will be campaigning in Stornoway.

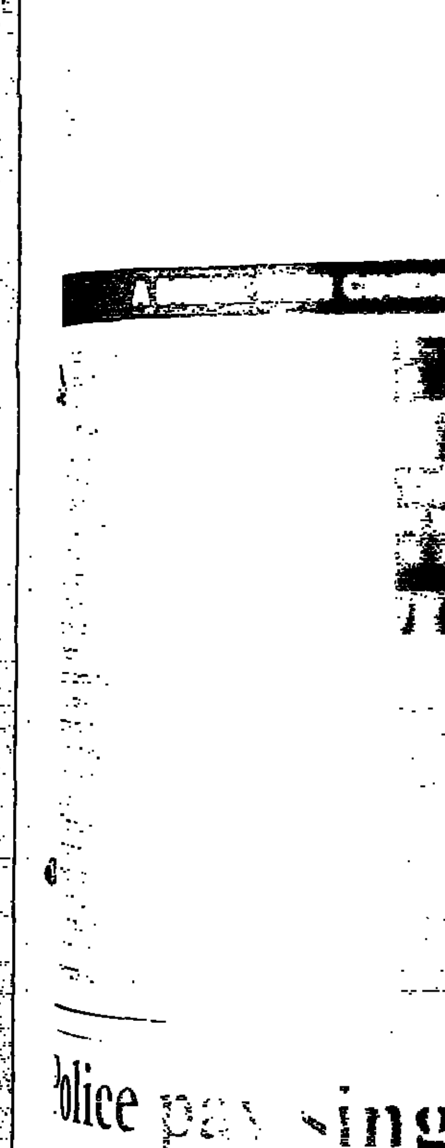
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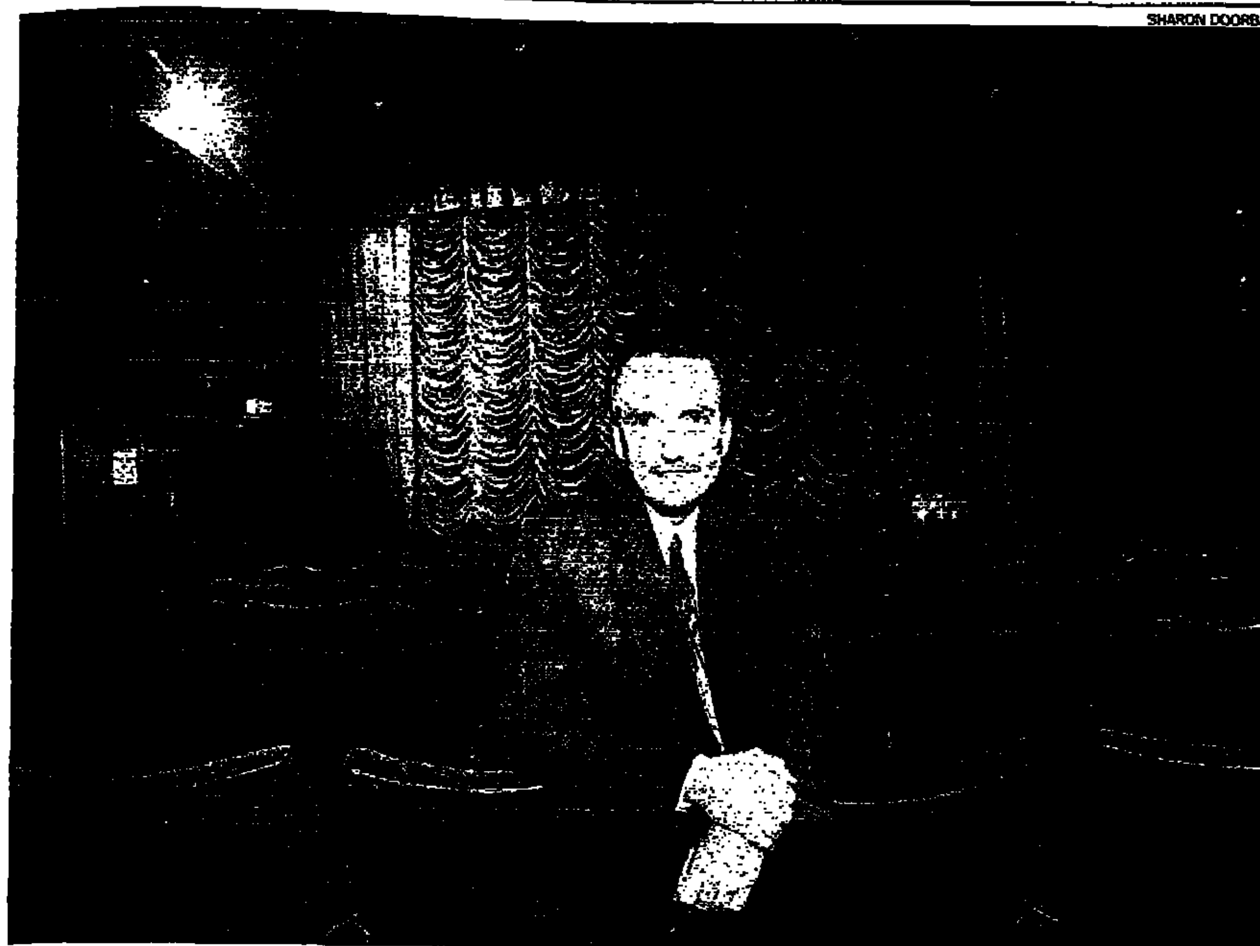
Passing the buck on pollution

Buy Clark Gable's old home

Homes, page 32






SHARON DOORBAR

Steve Tales, manager and projectionist at the Metro in Penistone, can no longer interrupt the main feature

Film chiefs call time on drinks interval

Cinema is ordered to stop breaks that give customers a breather at the bar, reports Paul Wilkinson

YOU CAN sink a pint in the middle of a Shakespeare play but not, it seems, in the middle of *Shakespeare in Love*. While the Bard was happy to provide an interval for theatregoers to seek refreshments, the film industry believes that we must persevere for hours without an intermission.

So when it was discovered that the operators of a small independent cinema were pausing the projector for a half-time half at the bar, the Society of Fiilm Distributors threatened to ban all further screenings unless the drinks break went.

Regulars at the 350-seat Metro in Penistone, near Barnsley, are outraged by the threat to their tipple, which they say dates back to the good old days of cinema, when there was always an interval between the B-movie and the big picture. The cinema is run on a lease from Barnsley Council by a management committee from the town council. Maureen Harrison, the Mayor of Penistone, who runs the committee, said: "The people of the town are really angry about this. We will take it all the way to Europe if need be."

The town council is writing to the Society of Film Distributors in London asking it to relent. The society warned the Metro that the unauthorised intervals had to stop after it sent an undercover agent on a visit. At a screening of *Godzilla* the spy saw drinks served during a 22-minute break.

This week the cinema has been running *Shakespeare in Love* — without an interval.

Mrs Harrison said: "Since we have been forced to show films all the way through audience numbers have declined. The public are complaining.

"At home they can watch a film on video and have as many breaks as they want, watching half one evening and the remainder the next if they wish. What's the difference with our cinema? The television stations have breaks to show adverts during programmes, so why can't we have a break?

"It's like an old-fashioned theatre, warm and cosy, and the staff know all the customers. The ushers will even keep an eye on children for their parents and watch over them until they are collected. All this is under threat unless we can have the interval restored. The profits we make from drinks, ice-cream and popcorn help to subsidise the building.

"This is a small cinema, struggling to keep open, and the money we make keeps the building watertight. This could close us down. The public are complaining with their feet. We serve isolated rural communities and there is no other entertainment for them apart from pubs.

"There is no public transport to multiplex cinemas in nearby cities and the film distributors could be denying this part of the world the opportunity to see films."

David Hunt, chief executive of the Society of Film Distributors, said: "When our members acquire the rights of a film they take on a contractual requirement to show the film in its entirety. Cinemas sign a licence agreement with our members to show the film without an interval. If we catch anyone breaking the terms of this agreement we ask them to stop.

"It is all about the cinema experience. These are feature films which are meant to be seen straight through without arbitrary breaks. It is about 200 or 300 people watching a film together. It is totally different to watching television.

"We have asked the Penistone cinema to observe the terms of its licence that it cannot have an interval during the feature film.

"Even in the old days they had a B-film first followed by the main feature. They didn't stop the feature film halfway through."

A BREAK WITH CINEMA TRADITION

THE battle between art and ice-creams has raged in the cinema since the double projector was pioneered 87 years ago.

That breakthrough meant that the interval could have been consigned to the cinematic dustbin. Unlike the B-movie and newsreel, however, the mid-film break has survived.

Although directors and distributors are almost united in their dislike of the interval — the former for dramatic reasons, the latter for financial — the screening of epic films lasting up to three hours demands a break.

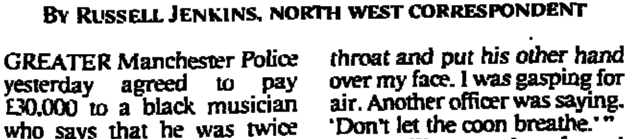
The most recent to be shown with an approved interval was *Dances With Wolves*, released in 1990 and starring Kevin Costner, which ran for 180 minutes. Others included *The Godfather* (175 minutes), and *The Guns of Navarone* (157 minutes), in which the director created a moment of high tension just before the halfway cut.

Good old days: queues and intervals

***Schindler's List* (195 minutes) was shown without an interval. "How can you interrupt such a powerful film just to sell ice-creams?" said Sir Sydney Samuelson, 73, the first British film commissioner, who yesterday condemned the Yorkshire cinema for attempting to insert its own break. "I think it is appalling to interrupt the story where the director did not intend it. I feel very strongly that cinemas have a responsibility to show the film as it was intended."**

Most films run for about two hours allowing cinemas to squeeze in up to four performances a day.

Police pay singer £30,000 to settle race abuse claim



By Russell Jenkins, North West Correspondent

GREATER Manchester Police yesterday agreed to pay £30,000 to a black musician who says that he was twice beaten up by officers, and told: "You are going to die, you black bastard."

Mark Ellison, 28, a hip-hop and reggae singer, of Moss Side, Manchester, compared the officers to a lynch mob in the American Deep South

The force agreed to pay £5,176 compensation and £25,000 costs before Mr Ellison's case for assault, false imprisonment and malicious prosecution was heard at Manchester County Court.

Mr Ellison was angry that the police refused to offer an apology with the damages. "I did not bring this case for the money but to make a stand against this type of police misbehaviour," he said. "Some police just think that because you are black and from the inner city, you must be bad."

He complained that in October 1992 he was ambushed by police officers and bundled into a van where he was kicked in the groin and battered over the head. When he asked what was going on, he said, one officer told him: "You are going to die, you black bastard."

Mr Ellison said: "It was like something out of a film about the Deep South. One policeman then took me by the throat and put his other hand over my face. I was gasping for air. Another officer was saying, 'Don't let the coon breathe.'"

Mr Ellison made a formal complaint. Six months later, he said, the same officers went to his home and taunted him with the words "nigger, come out, nigger". He said that one hit him on the shoulder with his radio and he lashed back. He was taken to a police station in a van, where he claimed that officers kneed him in the groin and kicked his stomach. He was later acquitted of assault.

The force said yesterday that the Police Complaints Authority had not upheld Mr Ellison's allegations after an internal investigation in 1993.



Ellison: said police were like a lynch mob

Woman driver 'ten times over alcohol limit'

By Paul Wilkinson, North East Correspondent

A MOTORIST was almost ten times over the drink-drive limit when breath-tested by police. The reading was so high, a court was told yesterday, that the officers thought their equipment was defective.

Michelle Fothergill's reading is believed to be the highest recorded in the country, but it may not have been accurate because the 24-year-old woman had also been sniffing butane.

After she had been warned by magistrates that she may go to jail, her solicitor, Roger Clapham, said outside court: "In theory, with a reading like this, she should be dead."

Fothergill, of Morley, West Yorkshire, was charged with drinking and driving in November, but at Morley Magistrates' Court in Leeds yesterday, the charge was dropped because the butane meant that a correct reading could not be taken from her blood sample. Fothergill admitted driving while unfit because of drugs.

The court was told that she was seen by police driving erratically in Tingley, West Yorkshire, and after a roadside breath test she was arrested and taken to a police station, where she was tested again. This produced a reading of 333 micrograms of alcohol per 100 millilitres of breath. The limit is 35 micrograms.



Fothergill: butane sniffing may have affected test

Sarah Pilcher, for the prosecution, said: "The officers were worried that the reading was incorrect but they found that the machine was working properly." A blood sample was taken but Fothergill became aggressive and smashed one of the glass phials against a wall. Another sample had to be taken.

Mr Clapham, for Fothergill, said that she had been under pressure because her grandmother had died, her partner had left her and fertility treatment had failed. He said her GP had advised her to attend an addiction clinic.

The case was adjourned until May for reports.

Italian blunder fanned Mont Blanc inferno

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

A DECISION by Italian officials to open a ventilation shaft when a fire broke out last month in the Mont Blanc tunnel linking France and Italy may have fanned the inferno in which at least 41 people died, a preliminary report said yesterday.

However, the report by French experts on the disaster, the worst ever road-tunnel blaze, said the decision to set the ventilator on maximum, blowing air on to the flames, was not the only explanation for the tragedy.

There has been widespread outrage and speculation as to how a fire that broke out on a Belgian-registered lorry carrying margarine and flour through the seven-mile tunnel could have caused an inferno that engulfed 35 vehicles and claimed so many lives.

"The fact that fresh air was introduced into the zone where the fire was developing, instead of extracting the smoke, is undoubtedly an important element that needs to be taken into account in analysing the swift flare-up of the blaze," the report said.

Only two safety drills had been carried out in the tunnel since it was opened in 1965, the last one ten years ago, the report disclosed.

It blamed the Mont Blanc Motorway and Tunnel (ATMB) company for its unwillingness to interrupt traffic to carry out safety exercises.

Insufficient co-ordination between ATMB and its Italian sister company SITMB and the lack of a parallel emergency passageway which could have offered motorists an escape route, were also blamed in the report, which was prepared by Pierre Dussé, the tunnel's inspector-general and Michel Marec, France's chief road network engineer.

The blaze raged for three days before firefighters succeeded in extinguishing it.

According to the report, ATMB switched the smoke extractors on as soon as the fire was reported, at 10.56 am on March 24. However, "for reasons which are not known", SITMB allowed the ventilation shaft to continue blowing fresh air into the tunnel, turning the system to maximum for almost 20 minutes, the report said.

It was not until 11.15 am that the Italians tried to disperse the smoke using an automatic extractor which failed to work. An attempt to use a manual machine also failed.

Other serious oversights listed in the report include the fact that there was no first aid team on the Italian side, and insufficient breathing equipment for rescue workers.

The report, which was published by Jean-Claude Gayssot, the Transport Minister and Jean-Pierre Chevènement, the Interior Minister, said "at least 41" people had died, but noted that this was not a final figure. According to the prefecture of Haute-Savoie, 45 people are reported missing.

Most of those who died were suffocated inside their vehicles by carbon monoxide and other toxic fumes only minutes after the fire broke out, the report said. Faulty breathing apparatus was probably to blame for the death of a fireman and for the serious injuries suffered by another, it concluded.

The charred remains of 34 bodies were discovered inside their vehicles. Only seven people had tried to escape on foot before they too succumbed to the heat and the fumes.

M Gayssot said he expected it would be "many long months" before the tunnel was reopened.

ALEKSANDR NEMENOV / EPA



Russia's femmes fatale

Members of the Russian security forces perform a routine during the finals of the Miss Red Star beauty contest in Moscow yesterday (Anna Blundy writes). The title was won by Tatyana Karpenko, 24, a paratroop warrant officer, pictured third from right. All the contestants were members of the Russian Army, police or FSB (formerly the KGB). About 160,000 women serve in the Russian Army, mostly as nurses, radio and telephone operators or secretaries. *There are around 1,000 female officers but only four colonels.* No woman has ever attained the rank of general.

Prodi manifesto wins EU plaudits

Romano Prodi addressing the assembly yesterday

Incoming President woos Parliament with federalist vision and Blairite reforms, Charles Bremner writes

ROMANO PRODI, the anointed successor to Jacques Santer as President of the European Commission, pledged yesterday to work for a more integrated Union with closer tax policies and eventually the "true harmonisation of national economic systems".

Signor Prodi proclaimed his vision of a closer European Union at his first appearance before the European Parliament which forced Mr Santer and his Commission to resign last month over charges of mismanagement and fraud.

The former Italian Prime Minister, who was nominated unanimously by EU leaders last month, pleased the Strasbourg assembly by saying that he had abandoned a plan to stand for a seat in the June elections. MEPs had been angered by the ploy, aimed at giving impetus to his newly launched Italian political party.

Signor Prodi, who enjoys the backing of Tony Blair, promised radical reform to make the Commission "more efficient, absolutely transparent and fully accountable". Before he takes up his post, probably in September, the Parliament must approve his appointment, as well as that of his commissioners. EU leaders hold their first session in Brussels tonight.

The centrist politician earned moderate applause with his manifesto for a Europe that mixed the broad federalist aspirations of Italian leaders with Blair-style views on the need for more economic deregulation and flexible labour markets. The EU must "fight to prevent any push towards protectionism", he said.

"The single market was the theme of the Eighties. The single currency was the theme of the Nineties. We must now face the difficult task of moving towards a single economy, a single political unity."

After the EU's "abandonment of monetary sovereignty" with the launch of the single currency this year, the coordination of tax policies among member states was urgently needed, he said. In the longer term, the EU must "create true harmonisation of the national economic systems".

It was also vital, he said, for Europe to open itself more to the world in trade, foreign policy and through the development of its own defence capability. "We must put at stake all our credibility, just as European businesses do. This must be a turning point in the process of integration. We must not tolerate any delay in the realisation of our project."In summing up, he said: "We must drive Europe into a great age of reform and change. We must renovate and reform our policies on the outside, in the world and internally."

Edward McMillan-Scott, leader of the British Conservative group, described Signor Prodi's manifesto as vague. "Every indication is that Mr Prodi is business as usual, but if he shows a real determination to reform the Commission he will confound his critics."

British Labour MEPs played down Signor Prodi's federalist themes, noting his emphasis on the type of reforms long urged by Britain. Among these, Signor Prodi said that economic growth alone would not be enough to absorb crippling unemployment and preserve the welfare state for the next century. What was needed was less bureaucracy and freer markets.

Paying tribute to Signor Prodi, Pauline Green, the British MEP who leads the dominant socialist bloc, called him "a good European" with "a proven track record of personal integrity" and achievement in leadership of a reforming government.

The first test of Signor Prodi's reformist credentials will be how much he can influence the choice of 19 commisioners, who are to be chosen by the 15 member states. The Amsterdam treaty, which comes into force next month, gives the incoming President authority in nominating candidates, and Signor Prodi has said he would no longer accept the practice of dominant parties rewarding political has-beens with jobs in Brussels.

WORLD SUMMARY

Anwar jail term expected

Many Malaysians believe a jail term for the former Deputy Prime Minister, Anwar Ibrahim, is inevitable when the High Court in Kuala Lumpur rules today (David Watts writes).

Whatever verdict Judge Augustine Paul — who sits without a jury — gives, it will mark a turning point in the country's history. Mr Anwar's dismissal last September for alleged abuse of power and immorality has split society, pitting the majority of Malays against their own in a country where ethnicity is at the centre of politics.

Britain restores ties with Iran

Nicosia: Britain and Iran are to normalise diplomatic ties for the first time since the 1979 Islamic revolution (Michael Theodoulou writes). The decision seals an agreement reached last year when the Iranian Government dissociated itself from the fatwa on Salman Rushdie.

Deserters' case to be reviewed

Wellington: New Zealand is to hold an independent inquiry to decide whether five soldiers shot for mutiny and desertion during the First World War were shellshocked at the time (Cathie Bell writes). The decision comes after a campaign by Mark Peck, a Labour MP.

Delhi coalition nears collapse

Delhi: The Indian Government was pushed to the brink of collapse as Jayaram Jayalalitha, leader of the All-India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, the second-largest bloc in the ruling coalition, prepared to forge an alliance with the opposition Congress party. *(Reuters)*

Smuggling case opened

Tokyo: A man has been arrested for allegedly smuggling more than 40 Thai women in suitcases on flights to Japan. The Thais reportedly paid Toshiro Oyama's organisation more than £17,000 then boarded flights as passengers and were crammed into suitcases in the toilet. *(AP)*

Shoes of tycoon's wife were 'a fetish'

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

MARLA MAPLES, the estranged wife of the property tycoon Donald Trump, has spent an hour in court identifying 70 shoes alleged to have fallen victim to the sexual advances of her former publicist.

Chuck Jones, who has previously admitted being a shoe fetishist, is accused of stealing the actress's sandals, trainers, slippers, pumps and cowboy boots along with her pyjamas and tights.

The New York court was told that when Ms Maples first started to notice that her shoes were disappearing, she became afraid to go home. When a hidden camera was installed in her flat, it recorded Mr Jones letting himself in and then kneeling in front of her cupboards. Ms Maples, 35, went with her mother and Mr Trump's security officers to Mr Jones's office and made him open a cabinet. It was full of shoes.

"Piles of my shoes and boots came pouring out," Ms Maples said. "I was just so hurt. They just came flooding out. They were slashed. That struck me as very aggressive and angry."

Mr Jones, 56, who was Ms Maples's press agent before she married Mr Trump in 1993, is defending himself on charges of burglary and criminal possession of stolen goods. He claims that Ms Maples sometimes used to sleep at his office to avoid the press and had left the shoes and clothing behind.

Cutting the cost of your mortgage



Personal Finance Editor **Anne Ashworth** reports on the savings to be made by remortgaging; why it could pay to copy your children's financial habits; the best way to provide for a comfortable and wrinkle-free retirement



Why pay? Homeowners who pay the standard variable mortgage rate are subsidising the rates enjoyed by other more cost-conscious borrowers

April has filled my neighbourhood with keen young couples in Gap combat pants searching for the perfect early Victorian terrace.

They have a clipboard, a dossier of alphabetically filed estate agents' details and can quote in seconds how the average price rises in the area compare with national figures. Although not yet parents, they are experts on GCSE and A-level scores at nearby schools, having surfed the *upmystreet.com* website of the essential details for every postcode. They sigh at the sight of a flounced net curtain, but swoon at any hint of a Conran Shop carrier left out with the rubbish.

The sight of this quest reminds others of the hell of moving home. However, they will play their part in the spring property rite by remortgaging. The savings can be equal to a large pay rise. Cut the rate on an £80,000 mortgage by 2 per cent and you could be about £1,600 a year better off. This is equivalent to a salary increase of £2,078 if you are a basic-rate taxpayer, or £2,666 if you are a higher-rate payer.

The remortgage transaction can be arranged on the telephonefrom yourarmchair. The money saved will enable you to swap the chair for one sofa from the Conran Shop, or as many as eight from the Cargo Home Shop chain. You are a suitable candidate for remortgaging if you are one of the many millions who pay the standard variable mortgage rate. Although the Halifax and some others have this week dropped their variable rates by 0.1 per cent to an average of 6.85 per cent, this is higher than the fixed or other discounted offers available which average 5.50 per cent. Those who pay the standard variable rate are subsidising the preferential rates enjoyed by other more cost-conscious borrowers. Are you happy to be helping to pay another person's mortgage?

Remortgaging is also an option for those who, several years ago, took out fixed-rate loans that seemed a bargain but are now expensive. Patrick Bunton of London & Country, the mortgage brokers, cites the example of those who, in 1994, opted for loans fixed at 8 per cent for ten years. He suggests that if you have about three years left to run of a 7.5 per cent-plus fixed-rate deal, you should benefit from remortgaging, though you may have to pay redemption penalties.

These are the charges imposed by mortgage lenders on unruly borrowers who have the temerity to decamp either during the fixed or discounted period of the loan. These fines are either a percentage of the loan or up to six months' interest repayments.

However, Barclays and NatWest have a more punitive charging policy under which the redemption charge increases as the overall level of interest rates falls. One *Times* reader with a £120,000 NatWest loan recently found that he would have to pay £20,000 to take his leave from the bank.

■ The remortgage loans on the market are either of the fixed or discounted variety. Those who like certainty will prefer a fixed rate, finding it reassuring to know how much they are paying out each month for a period of two to five years.

Those who like to live a little more dangerously will explore discounted variable rate offers. Here a discount of at least 1 per cent off the lender's standard variable rate is given. The rate payable on the loan will move in line with interest rates. Some discounted variable rates are "capped", limiting the amount by which the loan rate can be increased if base rates move upwards.

EASY MONEY

■ The rate is not the only salient detail of the loan package. You may have to pay an arrangement fee to the lender of £200 to £300. You must also have your property valued, at the cost of another £200 or so. There are also legal fees of £250 to £300 for the transfer of the deeds. However, lenders being anxious for your business, will often waive the arrangement fee and cover all the other costs.

You should look for a deal that is "transparent", avoiding lenders who seek to lock you in after the end of the fixed-rate period with harsh redemption penalties. Once you have enjoyed your discount, you will wish to be free to move your mortgage once more.

■ For details of remortgage offers, consult www.times-money.co.uk — The *Times's* personal finance website. Using the site's special mortgage calculator, you can work out how much you can afford to pay to keep the roof over your head, taking into account your other outgoings.

The Halifax is offering some good deals, including a loan of 5.65 per cent fixed until April 2002, with no fee and your legal fees paid.

John Charcol, the mortgage broker, lists as its other best buys without arrangement fees a Legal & General Bank discounted deal of 4.50 per cent, with a free valuation and a £200 cashback. After six months, the rate reverts to Legal & General's lower than average standard variable rate of 6.05 per cent. Standard Life Bank is offering a six-month discount of 1.5 per cent off its variable rate of 6.05 per cent. The valuation fee is refunded and the legal fees paid.

■ Having reviewed the market, your next stop should be a call to your existing lender to inform them that you deserve better treatment.

If you choose to remortgage with your lender, you will not have to pay legal or valuation fees. But some banks and building societies will attempt to fob you off with less advantageous deals, preferring to reserve the lowest rates for new customers. Other lenders will be more conciliatory, offering to match any loan from a rival. Ian Darby, of John Charcol, points out that some banks and building societies now have "retention teams", charged with the task of rekindling borrower loyalty.

Lenders deny that they will make irresistibly cheap eleventh-hour deals to prevent you from taking your business elsewhere. But awkward and demanding borrowers who appear willing to walk out the door will often be rewarded. So if you are normally submissive in the company of those who are lending you money, give a show of some Vinnie Jones assertiveness.

■ A little simple arithmetic is now required. Suppose you have an £80,000 loan fixed at 8 per cent where the repayments are £533.33 a month. To escape you must pay a penalty of £3,200 (six months' interest).

You wish to swap to another fixed-rate deal where the rate will be fixed at 5.35 per cent for five years. Your valuation fee will be £180, legal fees another £300 and the arrangement fee £295, a total of £775.

The monthly repayment will be £356.67, a saving of £176.66 each month and £10,599.60 over the full five-year term. Deduct from this your redemption penalty and the fees and you will see that you are £6,662.46 better off. A new kitchen, filled with Conran Shop or Cargo Home Store goodies, can be yours.

● *Contacts and weblinks: www.upmystreet.com — containing information on prices, schools and other local details: John Charcol: 0800 718191; London & Country: 0800 373300; Legal & General Bank: 0870-010 0338; Standard Life Bank: 0845-845 8451.*

EASY MONEY

Saving grace of our children

PARENTS who squandered their pocket money at the sweet shop will be ashamed to learn that their children prefer to hang around the building society comparing rates of interest. The Walls Pocket Money survey this week shows that our 12 million children are saving more of their average payout of £2.40 a week. More than £28 million is paid out in pocket money each week.

The youth market is big business at banks and building societies. They offer more than 60 different savings accounts for children. Some accounts provide special incentives. Many pay rates more generous than those on accounts for adults, but some institutions offer low returns. The young saver is favouring the building society sector where rates are, on average, higher. According to *Moneyfacts*, the savings and loan information guide, the Yorkshire Building Society is one of the best buys, paying 6.5 per cent. The Coventry Building Society also offers a good rate at 6.3 per cent. Two other societies, the Bradford & Bingley and the Britannia, offer 6.25 per cent.

All banks and building societies automatically deduct 20 per cent tax from interest. Since children are not taxpayers, they can claim this tax back by completing an Inland Revenue form — R85.

SUSAN EMMETT

● *Contacts: Yorkshire BS: 0845-600 6061; Coventry BS: 0845-766 5522; Bradford & Bingley BS: 01274-555 332; Britannia BS: 0800 132304; Chesham BS: 01494 782575.*

DENZIL McNEELANCE

Save on cosmetics and give yourself a financial makeover

The pressure from the beauty industry to buy volumes of skincare products is intense. Women are subjected to a constant barrage of advertisements featuring fresh teenage faces selling anti-wrinkle creams, tempted by special offers offering bags of freebies, and hounded by commission-earning cosmetics saleswomen claiming that unless you spend hundreds of pounds on creams to combat free radicals, you may as well never leave the house again.

As sexual equality advances, men are being sold the beauty myth too. Mintel, the market researcher, says that spending on male-specific skincare products doubled between 1992 and 1996. It is no longer deemed effeminate for men to care about their looks. When a footballer can prance about on national television declaring that he buys L'Oréal shampoo "because he's worth it", the man in the street can safely assume that he can buy the occasional tube of moisturiser without fear of ridicule.

But keeping up appearances is hard on the wallet. British women spend about £500 million a year on moisturisers. Add cleanser, toner, night cream and cellulite creams and you are talking Guatemalan national debt.

As cosmetics junkies will know, there is a huge range of prices for skincare products, from the sublime Chanel Maximum Moisture, £37.50, to *Kanebo Sensai Extra Performance*, £330 for 40ml. The most popular skincare products sold at Harvey Nichols in Knightsbridge come from Clarins. A comprehensive skincare range from Clarins would cost £149 — £12 for cleansing milk, £12 for toner, £29.50 for multi-active day cream, £34.50 for multi-active night lotion, £36 for extra-firming cream and £25 for an anti-cellulite product.

According to the Clarins head office, the range is suitable for men and women, although men are less likely to buy cellulite cream. If you buy the complete range and get four bottles of each product a year, your total skincare spending comes to £596.

It would be absurd to suggest that you abandon your beauty regime, but you can make a good saving by buying a cheaper brand. A comprehensive skincare regime from Marks & Spencer of cleanser, toner, moisturiser, night cream, intensive moisturiser and body-firming cream costs £40.50 — £162 annually.

This means that by buying a cheaper brand of skincare, you could save £434 a year, enough to take a three-night break for two at the Hotel Adriele in Florence or to pay for dinner for two (without wine) in all nine of Terence Conran's London restaurants.

On a monthly basis, your saving would almost cover a Bupacare health insurance plan (£37.28), or take care of a modest slice of the interest on a £40,000 mortgage.

If you add your skincare money to a regular investment in a unit trust, you can boost your returns significantly. Taking past performance as a guide, adding approximately £35 a month to a monthly payment of £75 and paying it into a Virgin All-share tracker fund will yield £28,000 after ten years, compared with £21,000 without the skincare money.

If you choose to pay the extra money, added to a £75 monthly contribution, into Virgin's cash Isa, which pays 5.75 per cent, you can save £6,875 over five years assuming constant interest rates. If you add it to a £75 monthly pension contribution with Virgin Direct, it can make the difference between a final fund of £129,000 and one of £172,000, assuming that the fund grows by 9 per cent. So for a comfortable and wrinkle-free retirement, ignore the pseudo-scientific babble of the girls from the cosmetics counter and head for the high street.

PAULA HAWKINS

NEXT WEEK *Marriage and your money*

Is the brain just a copying machine?

The theory of memes — copying ideas or skills — suggests that imitation has a key role in evolution. Anjana Ahuja reports

JEAN-NOEL REICHEL

Hand-me-downs: children mimic their parents behaviour, which plays a vital role in the evolution process

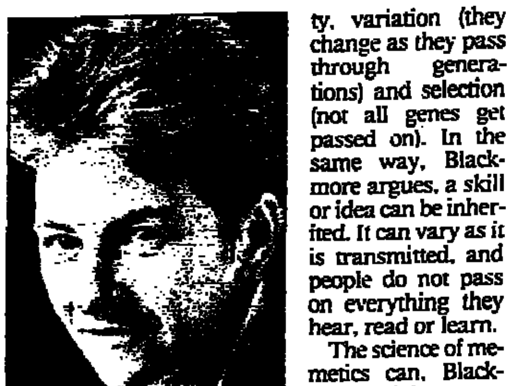
Cast your mind back to this morning when you were lying in bed listening to the radio. Has anything that you heard lingered in your mind? The catchy Flat Eric song featured in the Levi's ad or a particularly limp pun proffered by the DJ? Or have you been mulling over the grim bulletins about Kosovo?

These items are not merely snippets of information that we lock away in our heads, according to Dr Susan Blackmore, senior lecturer in psychology at the University of the West of England in Bristol and author of *The Meme Machine*. They are examples of "memes" — ideas, inventions, skills or stories that get passed from one person to another. We copy or imitate one another in myriad different ways, and the things that we copy are the memes.

Religion is a particularly prevalent collection of memes (known as a memeplex), usually spread by parents, who are excellent meme machines. They show their children how to tie shoelaces, how to greet people, how to eat with a knife and fork. Blackmore boldly suggests that it is this capacity for imitation that sets human beings apart from their ancestors, why the human brain evolved to be unusually large, and why culture plays such an important role in our lives.

"People assume that we evolved an enormous brain because it was of benefit to our genes," says Blackmore. "For example, it made us better hunters or foragers. But there are other animals that hunt and forage with much smaller brains. And there is a high price for having a large brain — childbirth is difficult and large brains consume a lot of energy. I propose that as soon as early human beings started imitating, things changed."

Conventional evolutionary theory suggests that the human brain swelled as humans became social creatures. Blackmore says that the social skills evolved because they were needed for imitation.



Dr Susan Blackmore

Imitation allowed early human beings to make tools by copying someone else rather than learning from scratch. Copying the eating habits of someone who has worked out what is safe to eat is less perilous than finding out by trial and error. In this way the best human imitators had an advantage. Genes that conferred the ability to imitate won out: over a few million years, the human brain developed rapidly into a copying machine.

The most successful memes — the skills and ideas that are copied most frequently — are those related to survival. "The Internet is an excellent way of spreading memes, and the most popular subject on it is sex," Blackmore notes. Science and religion persist because they appeal to our need to explain our origins.

The idea of memes dates back to 1976 when Richard Dawkins was propagating the idea of the "selfish gene" which, the Oxford University biologist contended, was merely one example of a replicator. Just as genes get passed around, ideas and beliefs and habits — which he christened memes — get passed on too.

Such memes fit into an evolutionary system which mirrors that of genes. Genes are subject to heredity, variation (they change as they pass through generations) and selection (not all genes get passed on). In the same way, Blackmore argues, a skill or idea can be inherited. It can vary as it is transmitted, and people do not pass on everything they hear, read or learn.

The science of memetics can, Blackmore claims, explain why creative professions, which are good at spreading memes, are deemed more sexy than others. Artists, thinkers, writers and musicians can be thought of as talented imitators, with their creativity and innovation a natural byproduct of their gift for imitation. That is why Gerard Depardieu and Mick Jagger, who are not every woman's idea of male perfection, appear to be highly desirable to the opposite sex.

This idea apparently resolves an enigma — evolutionary theorists have been hard-pressed to explain why art and music have evolved, and why their exponents are so revered.

Blackmore's serious treatment of this controversial idea has earned a mixed response. Dawkins, who penned the foreword to *The Meme Machine*, admires Blackmore for developing the theory of memetics but has not stated whether he subscribes to her belief that memes shaped the human mind.

"I think he thinks I have gone too far," she says, laughing. The palaeontologist Stephen Jay Gould has called memes "a meaningless metaphor".

Blackmore replies: "If I was saying, 'Look at genes, aren't they successful? Memes are the same and aren't they wonderful?' then people would be right to say it's just a metaphor. But that's not what I'm saying. There are a million differences between genes and memes. The only similarity between them is that they are both replicators, and once you get replicators you have evolution.

"Now that I've seen it, it is so obviously true. Things are copied by us, and these things compete for space in our brains."

The philosopher Mary Midgeley, based at Newcastle University, says that reducing humans to mere vehicles for the propagation of memes and genes is morally impoverished: "What upsets people is that once we realise we are a product of these two replicators, genes and memes, we are forced to drop the idea of 'the self', and people don't like this idea that there is no soul and no spirit."

Blackmore points out that the lack of "a self" is also a tenet of Buddhism, which she practises. Does the inclusion of her beliefs devalue her scientific argument?

"I struggle with the same questions in my science as I do in my personal life," she says. "When I practise Zen, I have to ponder ridiculous questions such as 'What is this moment?' But these are the same questions that science is trying to answer. I don't think science has a heart if we don't relate it to the way we live our lives."

● The Meme Machine *is published by Oxford University Press (£18.99) and is available to* Times *readers for £15.99; telephone 0990 134459.*

Slow progress in care for cancer

SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

IN CANCER research, success is always just around the corner. Despite the billions spent on research, and frequent headlines about breakthroughs, cures have not been found, and even the more modest objective of extending life has proved elusive.

Dr John Bailar of the University of Chicago has long courted unpopularity by pointing this out. Two years ago in the *New England Journal of Medicine* he noted that while there have been improvements in treatment, the effects on life expectancy have been small and that age-related deaths from cancer are barely declining. Between 1970 and 1994, which included President Nixon's "War on Cancer" — mortality actually rose by 6 per cent in the United States. "Seriously disappointing" is how he describes the past 40 years of research into the treatment of cancer.

Last week Dr Bailar was joined by Professor Barnett Rosenberg of Michigan State University, who in the Seventies discovered the curative powers of platinum-based drugs such as cisplatin. For once the word cure can be properly used. Cisplatin can cure almost 100 per cent of testicular cancers, and results to be published this week in the *New England Journal* show that when combined with radiotherapy it can cut deaths from cervical cancer by up to 50 per cent.

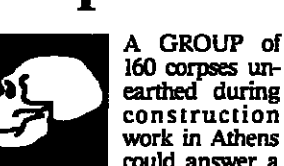
These are marvellous results, and Professor Rosenberg, now retired, is "euphoric" about them. But he is also concerned. Cisplatin was discovered more than 25 years ago yet remains the most effective anti-cancer drug. He says: "For years I have been saying that this is the first platinum-based drug we discovered. It can't possibly be the best. It's disappointing that the scientific community has not been able to find better ones. What great advances have we made in curing cancer since 1970? Cisplatin and its derivative, carboplatin, are the only major changes that have been made in chemotherapy."

That might be rather a sweeping conclusion because tamoxifen, for breast cancer, is another candidate, but it is hard to disagree that returns from so much research have so far been scanty. This week's meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research in Philadelphia, which ends today, added yet more studies to an archive already groaning with information.

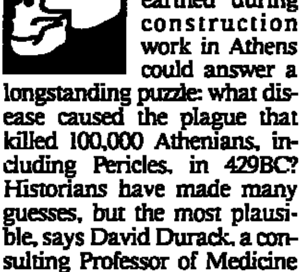
Among the most interesting was evidence presented by AstraZeneca that the latest fashion in cancer therapy, anti-angiogenesis, may be worth pursuing. The idea is to starve a tumour by cutting off its ability to create blood vessels. Dr George Blackledge, head of new cancer projects at the company, presented data showing that a compound known only as ZD4190, tested on five different animal species and on several tumour types, slowed growth of the tumours.

The compound can be taken by mouth — a big advantage — and Dr Blackledge is "very enthusiastic" about it. Clinical trials in human patients should start in Britain and the United States this year.

Plagued by a puzzle



A GROUP of 160 corpses unearthed during construction work in Athens could answer a longstanding puzzle: what disease caused the plague that killed 100,000 Athenians, including Pericles, in 429BC? Historians have made many guesses, but the most plausible, says David Durack, a consulting Professor of Medicine at Duke University, is typhus.



This disease fits the symptoms described by Thucydides, a survivor, Dr Durack told a conference earlier this year at the University of Maryland. Rashes, blindness and the loss of organs because of gangrene fit the diagnosis. So does the time taken for the victims to die. Typhus is caused by *Rickettsia prowazekii*, a pathogen that has had its entire DNA sequence worked out. So the corpses, which date from the right period, could contain matching DNA.

The chances of extracting the DNA may not be high, admits Professor Robert Littman of the University of Hawaii, a specialist in ancient medicine, but it is probably the only way to test the theory.

Cheaper peeper

THE glass mirrors of large optical telescopes require grinding and polishing of exquisite precision, which makes them very expensive. Now a group of astronomers from Laval University in Quebec suggests that mirrors up to eight metres in diameter could be made more cheaply of metallic liquids. The liquid would be placed in a spinning platter and be deformed to produce a perfect parabolic shape.

The problem has been that such a mirror, using mercury as the liquid, would work only when pointing upwards, which made it unattractive.

Drs Ermanno Borra, Anna Ritcey and Etienne Artigau suggest that liquids based on highly viscous glycerine would stay in a parabolic shape as the mirror tilted. By coating the liquid with a thin layer of metal, they hope to create a highly reflective surface. *PhysicsWeb* says that the design can cope with a 10-degree tilt, and the hope is to boost that to 20: half the viewing angle of a normal telescope.

A rift? There is *no* rift

Lauren Booth strongly denies that her activities have strained her links with the Blairs. Interview by **Grace Bradberry**


CHRIS HARRIS

New Labour, new life: Lauren Booth, half-sister to Cherie Blair, has found the family connection useful

Lauren Booth is the poor relation whom we all expected to get rich on the back of her half-brother-in-law, Tony Blair, and her half-sister Cherie Blair (with whom she shares a father, the actor Tony Booth). She's 31, lives in a shared rented flat on the periphery of Muswell Hill, in North London, and her most impressive possession is a maroon G-reg Escort convertible with leather bucket seats. If she has traded on the family connection — which most people would agree she has — then so far she hasn't got a very good price for it.

Perhaps that could be about to change. Having subsisted for the past couple of years on a series of columns (*Evening Standard*, *New Statesman*, but not *The Sun*, which rebuffed her agent), she has landed a job presenting her own Channel 5 show. *My Secret* has a confessional format, with "ordinary people" dropping bomblets about themselves to their nearest and dearest.

She's thrilled about the whole thing. This is clear from the moment she opens the door, clutching a bowl of muesli (it's 8am) and smiling manically. She's 5ft 11in, and looks a bit like an overgrown Jane Horrocks, with the same jagged, upturned smile. Blade-thin except at the hips, there's something slightly off-centre about her — in more ways than one.

She leads me into the kitchen, where she peers through a side-window to see if her flatmate's curtains are closed — "Damn, he's got the radio in there, and I want to listen to the *Today* programme." This is an odd thing to say when I have just arrived to interview her, but I let it go. She resumes her breakfast, telling me about her new show between mouthfuls. "It's a great slot because it's 7pm, which is a new slot for Channel 5."

"It's a fun show," she goes on. "We want lots of laughs — that's why they got me. When I do the BBC *Breakfast News* [a newspaper review slot], everybody says, 'Oh my God, I don't believe she said that!'"

This is a common reaction to Lauren Booth. Similar words have probably been uttered within No 10. Since the general election, Lauren has dropped a series of little bomblets, which have caused slight embarrassment to her famous relatives. In truth, her incendiary devices should have had greater force, but they have been deployed a little randomly.

There was the anti-hunt speech she made at the 1997 conference; the diary column in *The Spectator* where she referred to herself as a "Valkyrie-like goddess" and to Tony Blair as her "charming, Marmite-sandwich-making brother-in-law" who changed into "Our Leader"; most recently she wrote an article for *Tribune* praising Ken Livingstone and suggesting the Labour leadership should drop its opposition to him running for mayor. The following day, Livingstone declared that Blair was "worse than Mrs Thatcher", thus underlining her disloyalty. Did she not think she'd gone too far?

"I think disagreement is healthy," she says defiantly. Not very new Labour, I remark. "They are certainly a strong enough party to withstand someone with a point of view," she pronounces. Wasn't she at least taken aback by Livingstone's Thatcher remark? "God, it's not my business to know what Ken Livingstone is going to say from one day to the next," she says, laughing. She is clearly rather proud of the answers she is giving. The trouble with Lauren Booth, however, is that she is as transparent as a wet T-shirt competition. The facts of her adult life are these: she went to drama school, became an actress, struggled to make a good living. Towards the 1997 election she got involved in Arts for Labour, based at John Smith House. She abandoned acting altogether just before the election, went up to Sedgefield for the count, went to the party at the Royal Festival Hall, then promptly relaunched herself as a journalist after gaining a media agent at about the same time. Rarely has there been a more brazen attempt to cash in on a relative's success, but Lauren spins and spins, refusing to let this stick. "It was chance, the way I look, the way I am. You know, people are going to recognise that," is how she explains the Lauren Booth post-election phenomenon.

> 'I was really annoyed we didn't have an affair'

It's a shame, because I have every sympathy with her opportunism. She hadn't had an easy life, and deserved a break. The new Labour ticket was it. Why not cash it in? If only she would acknowledge this we could all move on.

Born Sarah Booth (she adopted Lauren as a stage-name), she and her sister Emma are the products of Tony Booth's relationship with Pamela "Suzie" Smith, a Sixties model. Their father drank.

When Lauren was 12, her mother locked the door on a drunken Booth and he accidentally set himself on fire. Lauren tried and failed to unbolt the door, hearing his shouts but unable to help. Her father was in hospital for months and it was during that period that Lauren first got to know Cherie Blair and discovered that the woman she'd met several times before was actually a half-sister.

Tony Booth never came home again. Lauren and Emma were sustained by their grandmother who literally brought food parcels, and had the girls to stay at weekends. Eventually, Lauren moved in with her grandparents, before gaining a place at drama school. During that period, she was a frequent dinner guest at the Blair household.

So in many ways Lauren Booth is a survivor. She spent her teenage years staying out until 5am, drinking Jack Daniels and hanging out with other scarcely cared-for offspring of bohemian parents. The legacy of this is that Booth is an accomplished "mucker". She can make friends in bars, pick up mates at Labour conferences, work her way into the centre of things. "I'll go up to someone and say, 'So, when are you having this party? I'm coming along'."

This was pretty much her approach to new Labour as the election grew closer — but it proved difficult to get in on this particular party. She worked for Arts For Labour, but as she says, "All the big people, come the general election, Millbank were in control of. They sort of shunted them away from us. You can't have any old bod like me calling Mick Hucknall."

She's brought up that name, so I take the plunge: is it true you went out with him? "Well, not romantically, but I did go for two nights out with him. I was really, really annoyed that we didn't have an affair. I was too *shy*."

With scarcely a pause, she goes on to describe how she got to meet the Simply Red singer in the first place. "I saw him at the first big gala event after we won the election. I was a big fan and I went up and started singing." She spreads out her arms and dances towards the sink as she re-enacts this scene.

"Months later — I don't know whether I bumped into him, or whether I had his number from the . . ." The Labour Party's contact book, she may have been about to say. ". . . anyway, I rang him up and said, 'It's me. I sang in front of you at conference'." They had dinner, went to see Eddie Izzard, visited him backstage, but that was it.

Generally speaking, this appears to be Lauren Booth's modus operandi. At the Parliamentarian of the Year Awards, sponsored by *The Spectator*, she spotted Alan Clark across the room, and suggested they had lunch. He agreed — but didn't set a date. Did it ever happen? "It didn't." Perhaps he was too busy — or perhaps Clark saw trouble stamped on Lauren Booth's forehead.

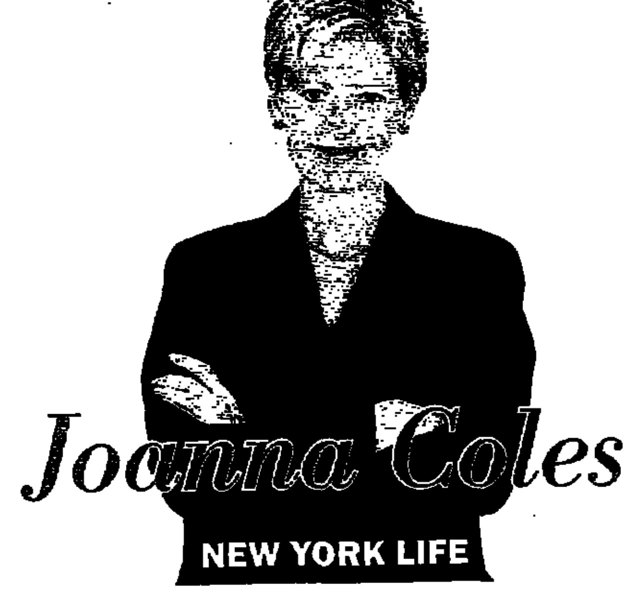
Throughout the interview she regales me with more tales of how she went up to this person, that person, said such and such, and they were first aghast then amused, in an indulgent sort of way. She relies, you might say, on the amusement of strangers. In the corridors of LBC she bumped into Ken Livingstone, and said, "Oh my God, you are Ken Livingstone," to which he apparently replied: "I would never have had the gall to speak to someone, an elder, the way you just did." "I went, 'Oooh, you've very grand.' He went, 'You're funny'." Now they have dinner. "That's nothing political. It's just two people who like a glass of wine and can laugh."

When did she join the Labour Party? "I don't know. Probably eight, nine years ago. I don't know. Recently. Who knows." This is a very odd reply. Lauren Booth has spent much of her life on the periphery, trying to reach the centre. She tells me she likes to hear the crew talking through her earpiece when she's on set, otherwise she might feel left out. I ask about her relationship with her father, and she says: "Dad's got a new family now, he's remarried, and he's got a group of kids around him. He's a family man of the moment, and he's got that family. I don't see him a lot."

When I ask whether her activities haven't strained relations with the Blairs she insists: "There's no rift. There's *no* rift." But she won't say the last time she visited No 10. This week, she's off to Labour's gala dinner — at the invitation of Tony Banks, the Minister for Sport.

● My Secret *is on Channel 5, Monday, 7pm, beginning April 19.*

Here, the breakfast hours are aching to be filled



Friday: "Oh George Stephanopoulos is *so* over," groans Nadia when I try to interest her in a power breakfast where the President's former aide will be in conversation with Walter Isaacson, the Editor of *Time*. Peter, of course, has scoffed at the idea of a meeting that starts at 7.30am. And in London, it's true, nothing would have persuaded me to attend a breakfast lecture. But here, the hours from 6 to 9am are viewed as time aching to be filled, and not just by joining the early-bird run around the Central Park reservoir.

The tradition of the literary breakfast was started here by Harry Evans in his days as publisher of Random House. His 8am breakfasts, held at Barneys department store, where the literati would argue about Proust over their patisserie, were scrapped after his departure. Now the baton has been picked up by the 92nd Street Y, the famous arts and sports centre on the Upper East Side which, responding to demand, has just started its own Books and Breakfast series.

It's my first visit to this Manhattan institution and as I arrive at 7am dozens of people are filing out from the gym, their dawn workout already done. Outside the main door it's like a theatre as the crowd stands clutching tickets and waiting for friends. Breakfast with George was sold out weeks ago and a stream of disappointed young women are being turned away at the door.

> A stream of young women are being turned away

On the second floor the Buttenweiser lecture theatre has been transformed into a smart restaurant with 25 tables each laden with fresh flowers, goblets of freshly squeezed OJ, baskets of warm muffins, and bagels with cream cheese and smoked salmon. Seating is free-range so I plump for a central table. "Have you been to one of these breakfasts before?" I ask the fortysomething woman sitting opposite me.

"Oh yes, these *definitely* work for me," she says briskly. "My concentration is better at this time. Now I'm a little hungry What've we got here?"

Her fingers hesitate above a decadent chocolate muffin before diving for a chaste bagel. "Put it this way, I'm a working person. If I go to a lecture between 8 and 10pm, then my evening's shot. This way I squeeze something extra into my day."

"I think it's a terrific idea," says her companion with a nod, helping herself to a bowl of swollen mulberries with chunks of fresh coconut and melon. "I came to the Jimmy Carter breakfast and it was a perfect way to start my day.. Hey, in 90 minutes I'll be at my desk but I figure I got a head start on everyone else!"

At 7.35am George and Walter slip on to the small stage. "Hello Mr and Mrs Stephanopoulos," says Walter, waving to George's parents, who are loyally munching muffins at a stageside table. They wave back. Stephanopoulos Sr is a Greek Orthodox bishop, but this morning he's in mufti. "George is the most reflective and introspective person I've met in politics," Walter adds by way of introduction, and they grin their approval. Our guests then embark on the morning's discussion, kicking off with their thoughts on the American response to Kosovo which Walter suggests is "breathtakingly ill-conceived".

> George's parents are loyally munching muffins at a table

Several heads in the audience nod their support as George declares it's "too early to judge". A man with a briefcase dotted with dinosaur and Disney stickers hustles into the empty seat next to me. It's Russ Smith, one of the city's wealthier mavericks, and owner-editor of the *New York Free Press*, a weekly conservative free-sheet, and author of *The Mugger*, a column that constantly berates liberal journalists. He produces an old camera from his bag and darts up to the front of the stage where, crouching low, he starts taking illicit snapshots like an excited teenager at a rock concert. "I've been a bad boy," he whispers proudly when he returns to his seat.

On stage Stephanopoulos rattles through his time with the Clintons in the tones of a wounded lover. "Bill Clinton is just about the most seductive person you can meet," agrees Isaacson. "You feel like he's part of a magic force field. He makes me feel as if I'm his best friend. It's enticing."

"Which means that you get extra hurt and extra betrayed when it goes wrong," says Stephanopoulos bitterly. In front of me a smart woman pulls out a laptop from a Kate Spade bag and starts pounding away at her keyboard. "Now *that's* annoying," says her neighbour, complaining loudly in a vigorous New York kind of way. Across the table a man and an attractive woman swap business cards with the discreet dexterity of seasoned croupiers. "Any questions?" asks Walter, opening it up to the rest of us. Hands strain but my neighbour, Russ Smith, leaps to his feet first. "George, what did you think of the *New York Times* reviewer who called you a whiner?" "I heard about the review in advance," says George. "And when I bought the paper I folded the Book Review in half and threw it away."

Finally, we address the question exercising New Yorkers most: is Hillary going to run against the Mayor for the Senate? George thinks not. "Everything would be dredged up again; you musn't underestimate how much she wants to do something on her own."

Four minutes later and the hall is empty, everyone on their way to work. "Will you come back for another one?" I ask my female neighbour as we squeeze into the elevator.

"Look, it's only 8.40am," she says, "and I've already had great intellectual stimulation. It's a nice short format and you get to meet people. Would I come again? Go figure."

Culture v Anarchy, in the UK

Englishmen must learn how to be gentle, says Roger Scruton

The most important issue in the forthcoming elections to the new Scottish parliament is Scotland. Whether by conscious design, or by the working of that "invisible hand" which the great Scottish philosopher Adam Smith discerned in all spontaneous co-operation, Scotland will sooner or later become an independent state. It will retain formal links with the United Kingdom: but it will have as much, and as little, sovereignty as any other state in the European Union. Its independence will come about more smoothly than that of the emerging Balkan states. For Scotland is a public-spirited and law-abiding country; it has its own legal system; and it has no neighbours apart from England, which would not contemplate war or even sanctions when faced with the alternative of divorce.

But where does this leave the rest of us who have thought of ourselves as British? The idea of Britain grew from a unique political history. But it gained credibility from economic and military success, and in particular from an Empire acquired, as Joseph Chamberlain put it, "in a fit of absentmindedness". The Scots, the Welsh and the Irish shared in this absentmindedness, which is but another name for Smith's "invisible hand". Yet without the British Empire, and without the Union, Britain will be a fiction — worse, a delusion. There will be no such place, and no such people as the British.

> Only sensual pleasure is now presented as good

The English, being pragmatic, will quickly perceive that this is so. They will look around for the customs and institutions that have defined them, and which have made it so easy to live without a clear idea of who they are. But what will they find? A Parliament hastily and purposelessly reformed, so as to bear little relation to the "Queen in Parliament" of old; a monarchy irreversibly weakened by the destruction of the hereditary House of Lords; a common law qualified out of existence by European courts; an Anglican Church riven by self-doubt and with its liturgy in tatters; and — worst of all — a Government obedient to continental masters. They will find themselves in the very situation that they have fought for five centuries to avoid and for which the idea of Britain was devised as a shield.

It is hard to believe that the English will not react as other people in the modern world have reacted, by defining themselves as a nation. They will not, like the Serbs, lay belligerent claim to their "historic" territories; they will not engage in pogroms or ethnic cleansing; they will not attempt the "splendid isolation" attributed to the Empire, at a time (1896) when splendour and isolation were just about compatible. They will, instead, set out in search of their civilisation — the continuous tradition of which gives them a claim to nationhood equal to that of the Scots and Serbs. And they will discover that they have forgotten it.

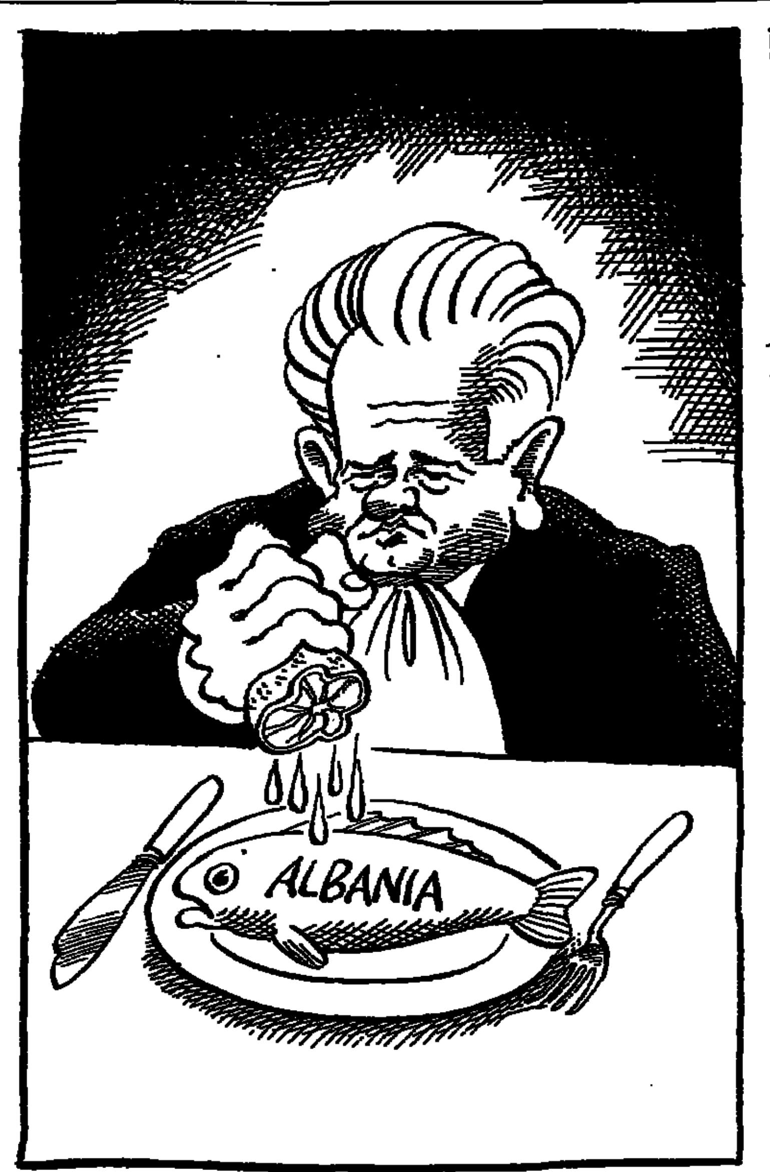
Vague ideas of the gentleman and his duties, of fair play and the stiffer upper lip may still inhabit the sports field; and here and there the English sense of humour and sang froid will be remembered. But most of what the new English will encounter, in school or through popular culture, will be remote from the civilisation of their ancestors. Whenever a chance arises to celebrate the past of their country or the virtues of its people, jeering will replace cheering. Schoolchildren will learn much about slavery, and the Englishmen involved in it, but nothing about its abolition by the English. They will be taught to see Old England as a place of "social exclusion" rather than of constant and collaborative reform.

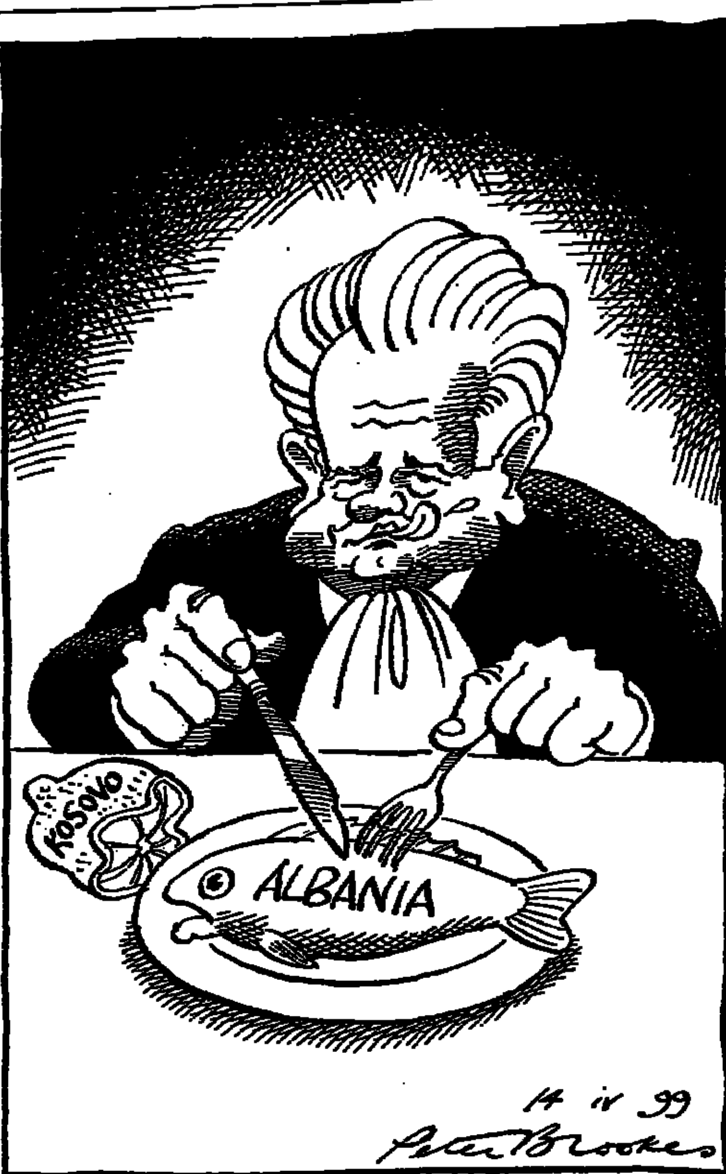
The new English are being brought into a world without memory, in which nothing except sensual pleasure is represented as a good. The essence of English civilisation can be captured in a single word: "gentle". And those who love England still love it for its gentility and gentleness. From Voltaire to Capek, foreign admirers have seen England less as a political reality than as a moral ideal. The question is, how is that ideal to be defended?

Schools and universities have made no stand against the more degenerate forms of popular culture, but instead have begun to "teach" it. Throughout the cultural establishment, from the Royal Academy to the BBC, from the Proms to the Royal Fine Art Commission, we find growing acquiescence in our cultural decline. The Turner Prize is regularly awarded to the person who has most visibly desecrated the legacy of Turner; buildings which sneer at their civilised surroundings are put forward by the RIBA as triumphs of urban design and their architects rewarded with knighthoods. There is an eagerness to accept that our national culture is exemplified by Britpop, even at a time when the "Brit" is as meaningless as the pop.

One might be tempted to conclude from this that English civilisation was, after all, a fragile and ephemeral thing, with no ability to survive once the protecting shield of Britishness has been taken away. But I am not so pessimistic. We are living through a state of shock, and only when our political institutions have crumbled — which, thanks to new Labour, will be soon — will we be able to make the great choice which history demands of us. Then we will recognise that, after all, our country is something more than its institutions, and that the good things we have squandered were created by collective effort. Then we can begin again, as all the other people of Europe have had to begin again in our century, discovering what we are, not as a collection of first-person singulars, but as a first-person plural. The English will then emerge as a nation, as important to its members as is Scotland to the Scots.

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Suckers for punches

Bomb-happy Nato should realise there is an alternative to world war

Simon Jenkins

Am I completely wrong about Kosovo? Have I missed some vital point?

Those who fight wars must banish doubt from their minds, since doubt is the enemy of courage. Those who criticise them enjoy no such security. If those who oppose Nato's bombing campaign in Yugoslavia are wrong, they are a menace to the war effort. Tony Blair this week put this war on a par with the 1939 fight against Hitler. We must not again appease dictators, he says. A line has been drawn in the sand. So stop blurring that line, Jenkins.

Such lines are indeed important. We drew them in the Falklands and in Kuwait. The essence of collective world action is that national boundaries should not be changed by force. Wars fought to restore the sovereign integrity of nations are thus just wars. The case against President Milosevic has been stated likewise, but with little conviction. President Clinton and Mr Blair have tried to portray Mr Milosevic as another Hitler, intent on destabilising the whole Balkans and even dominating Europe, in order to justify Nato's aggressive bombing. But they have been ridiculed by a flurry of pundits. The real *casus belli* in Kosovo is different — the ruthlessness with which Mr Milosevic has treated his own separatists. The case, in essence, is that the man is a monster and "must be stopped".

So what is wrong with that? For evil to triumph, it is necessary only for good men to do nothing. Hamlet summoned us to "find quarrel in a straw when honour's at the stake", and warned us against "some craven scruple of thinking too precisely on the event". Is Nato's honour not at stake in Kosovo?

Nato's leaders are certainly making it so. But whereas honour's stake was clear in the Falklands and Kuwait, in Kosovo it is wobbly. Every continent is awash in Kosovo-type conflicts. In former Yugoslavia, Britain recognised Croatia and Bosnia as states, despite knowing that the outcome would be ethnic cleansing. President Tudjman of Croatia, supported by the Americans, did to his Serb population in 1994-95 exactly what Mr Milosevic is doing to his Kosovans: killing thousands and expelling hundreds of thousands. I do not recall shrill cries from Mr Blair for the bombing of Zagreb. Britain took no action in defence of the Krajina Serbs or the Bosnian minorities, at least until licensed by the UN at the end of the civil war. Why has it so ferociously espoused the Kosovo Albanians? The question can be answered by appeals to expediency, but Mr Blair yesterday said this was a war of "moral purpose". It is the apparent double-standard that enrages Serb opinion and gathers it, however reluctantly, behind Mr Milosevic.

Yet we are where we are. The gauntlet is down. Robin Cook talks of continuing with bombing "until the job is done". Anything less, he implies, would be nothing short of humiliation for Nato. Even Henry Kissinger, long an opponent of this intervention, is a convert to the argument. Now that American forces are engaged in combat, he tells the *Los Angeles Times*, "victory is the only exit strategy" (an ominous phrase from Kissinger-of-Vietnam). But by victory he means ground assault, as the critics of the "bombing alone" strategy have always claimed it would. And on this they are at odds with at least the public statements of Nato and the British Government.

What is now planned on Kosovo's border with Macedonia and Albania is a mystery wrapped in a horror. But a land assault on Kosovo has one virtue. It would close the gaping wound at the heart of Nato's present apologia. Mr Blair was yesterday near frantic to tell the world that the ethnic "cleansing" of Kosovo had nothing to do with the Nato bombing. He said that Mr Milosevic planned it long ago and began it a week before the first bomb fell. Mr Milosevic, in other words, never intended only to crack down on the Kosovo Liberation Army but always meant to cleanse Kosovo of Albanians altogether. It is therefore a calumny against Nato to imply that the refugees are in any sense the result of the bombing.

The trouble with this explanation is that it implies an even greater calumny against Nato: that it was aware of the risk of humanitarian catastrophe and did nothing effective to stop it. It rejected as "too costly" the one military option capable of stopping it, the swift insertion of a rapid reaction force before the main Serb Army arrived, and resorted instead to the one option most likely to win Serb support for Mr Milosevic, bombing Belgrade. Mr Blair asks us to believe that his colleagues read intelligence warnings of what was about to happen, and then voted for "bombing alone". This was not "doing something about Milosevic" but the opposite. If true, it was pure Munich.

For what it is worth, I cannot believe that Mr Blair and his colleagues were so cynical. I prefer to see them as victims of their own naive intervention in Yugoslavia's internal affairs and the consequent escalation of threats. Ministers who had never seen a gun fired in anger were mesmerised by military bombast about the political impact of "pinpoint accurate, laser-guided weapons systems", despite their failure to move President Saddam Hussein in Iraq. Nato gambled that Mr Milosevic would not respond to bombing threats by a pre-emptive strike into Kosovo, but would agree some fudge as he did last October. The gamble failed. The refusal to deploy ground troops when Kosovo was largely undefended now seems cowardly and negligent. Mr Milosevic was invited to call the bluff of the mightiest armies in the world and he did.

I repeat, the war party has not "done something about Milosevic". It has done nothing about him. The only honourable thing to do now is properly to go to war with him, yet British politicians still cannot stomach this logical outcome of their posture. Nato has been witness to, if not party to, the displacement of almost a million Kosovans. Its response is not to restore them to their land but to destroy the oil and power, the roads, factories, bridges, trains and radio stations of a sizeable European state. Mr Milosevic may be "degraded" but he is politically impregnable, while the supposed beneficiary of this effort, Kosovo, is rendered a wasteland.

Having pulled Mr Milosevic on to the punch, the coherent policy would at least be to punch him properly — a policy to which gung-ho American opinion appears to be dragging the British Government. But such a policy must be mad. The most it could attain is some heavily fortified "safe havens" in Kosovo. It would drag into the fight every Slav nationalist, not least from Russia. It would also send a signal to any separatist movement that if it can provoke enough mayhem to "threaten a humanitarian disaster", bellicose Nato politicians will come rushing to its aid. A dozen such groups must be enviously watching the KLA's booming armouries at present. This is not "world policing" but anarchy.

Nato had no business in half-heartedly sponsoring negotiations over Kosovan autonomy. It was not invited to do so, and made a hash of it. It has no more business in Romania or Kurdistan or Azerbaijan or, for that matter, Basque Spain or Northern Ireland. Kosovo's autonomy remains where it was when Britain "recognised" the new, truncated Yugoslavia: at the mercy of Mr Milosevic. To invade its deserted valleys and try to hold them against Serb forces would be costly and pointless. To subject Serbia to an indefinite, purely punitive blitz would be obscene.

My answer to the question "what to do?" is therefore the same as it was last October. It is not to draw lines you have not the will to defend at proportionate cost. Non-intervention in foreign civil wars, coupled with generous aid to sufferers, has been normal British policy in the past. Most recently it has been policy in Ethiopia, Rwanda, Sudan, Palestine, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan. This is not a policy of cowardice or appeasement. Mr Milosevic is a nasty job of work but he is not Hitler or Stalin. He does not merit a third world war.

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'For the Royal Wedding, Mary has, after long deliberation, decided on a size 12 made for her by C&A, in a sort of turquoise'

Alan Coren

You will, I know, have been as thrilled as I to learn that 2,000 "ordinary people" are to be invited to the wedding of Prince Edward and Miss Sophie Rhys-Jones, and you will thus be on tenterhooks, as public fascination with the preparations for the summer nuptials swells to its crescendo, to discover as much as possible about that lucky handful who will, any day now, find their trembling fingers plucking from their doormats the coveted pasteboard requesting their presence at what is already being described by the more excitable tabloids as The Wedding of June 19.

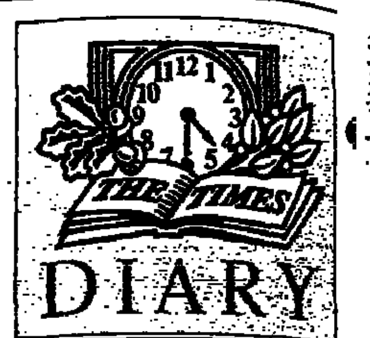
Well, you have come to the right person: correctly recognising that, as an Ordinary Correspondent, I stand head and shoulders above nobody, the Palace has granted me exclusive access to its fat dossier on the first couple to pass the rigorous selection process: and having spent the whole of last night nodding over this scrupulously mundane document, I can this morning reveal to a rapt public just a few of the details it is slavering to know.

John and Mary Robinson, 53 and 49 respectively, met 27 years ago at a Woking garden centre. Neither of them was a keen gardener — he was looking for a small rubber plant to put on his television set, and she wanted three pansies of different colours to replace the three dead ones in her window-box — but standing next to one another at the till, they discovered a mutual interest in the new decimal currency, agreeing that both missed the old half-crown. From there, it was but a short step to the local Wimpey, where each had a quarter-pounder, without cheese, and a milky coffee. They married two years later, and continued having sex on a weekly basis in their new joint flat, moving, in 1976, to an architect-designed semi-detached house on a Reigate executive estate, as soon as John qualified, in his opinion, as an executive. It was here that their two children, Peter John and Wendy Mary were born, soon to be joined by the half-collie, Spot, and Mrs Lockett, 51, who came in to do for them three days a week after Mrs Robinson returned to her career as a roofing secretary.

For the Royal Wedding, Mary has, after long deliberation, decided on a size 12 dress made for her by C&A, in a sort of turquoise, with black patent leather shoes, chosen for a reliable record in standing around, and a sensible matching bag. John will wear his brown two-piece wool and polyester suit from Reigate Fuller Man, and is having his oxblood brogues specially resoled by famed nationwide cobblers, Mister Minute. He has also confided to close friends that a new tie has not been entirely ruled out. He will, however, stick to his old hairpiece, because it has always stuck to him. That is John's favourite joke. For the ceremony itself, he has already set his Ferguson video-recorder with the long-term programmer Mary bought him for their recent silver wedding; they plan to watch the recording on June 20 with a Domino's pizza (extra large, no anchovy), although both have agreed not to wave at cameras as the Royal Couple emerge on to the steps of St George's Chapel. Instead, John will raise his trilby as high as decorum permits. If this proves to be successful, a 10 by 8 print will be made from the tape by Snap-U-Like, Banstead, put in an antique-appearance frame, and stood on the mantelpiece between the couple's eight-day carriage clock and the bronzette plaque Wendy Mary received, in 1986, for good posture.

The Robinsons will be travelling from Reigate to Windsor in their beige M-registration Vauxhall Cavalier, entering the M25 at Junction 8 and leaving it at Junction 13, advice John received from the Automobile Association, of which he has been a member for almost a quarter of a century. Experts there have assured him that the journey should not take more than 50 minutes, but he has decided, following complex discussions with informed neighbours, to err on the side of caution and allow an hour-and-a-half for traffic, parking, and dropping off Trish from Maison Geoff, who is coming to the Robinson home early that morning to rainproof Mary's highlights.

Assurances have naturally been sought by Buckingham Palace that the Robinsons will between now and June 19 do nothing out of the ordinary to draw attention to themselves, since this might well result in a withdrawal of the invitation, and the couple have, I understand, been quick to comply. However, informed sources tell me that, after an appropriate time has elapsed, John and Mary plan to commemorate the momentous day by double-glazing their entire ground floor.



Secrets of war

CLASSIFIED information about Sir Winston Churchill's plotting for D-Day is to be made public after a persistent campaign for its release by Rupert Allason, aka Nigel West. To mark the 55th anniversary of the invasion, the former Tory MP has persuaded the powers-that-be to allow him to publish the details of Operation Fortitude.

The deception plan succeeded in hoodwinking the Germans into believing that the Allies would land at the Pas de Calais rather than Normandy. Details were originally secreted by Roger Hesketh, the late Tory MP who, as a spook, had helped to devise the operation.

But the information has since found its way into the hands of Allason, who writes spy thrillers under his pseudonym and, until now, has had to keep his find private: "At last," an historian tells me, "we will find out just how big a role Churchill played."

AFTER announcing her split from Andre Agassi, Brooke Shields (below) is to arrange a spot of laser surgery. She needs to remove the name of her husband tattooed on her upper thigh during their courtship. With extraordinary prescience, the American tennis player never reciprocated.



■ THE Blairite television presenter, David Aaronovitch, has been denounced by his mother for criticising Tony Benn's opposition to the war in the Balkans. Lavender Aaronovitch wrote to the veteran MP to tell him that she considers her son, the part-time *Newsnight* anchor, to be wrong and a fool.

"My mother said that she was going to write but I didn't believe her," Aaronovitch Jr says. "She always says she wishes I hadn't said something or another but still comes over to look after the kids."

A NASTY diary clash for Lord Williams of Mostyn was yesterday resolved by quick-thinking whips. The Home Office Minister was due at Windsor to be inducted by the Queen into the Privy Council, shortly before defending the age of consent Bill in the Lords. A friendly filibuster delayed the debate until my Lord arrived.

■ POLICE in Salisbury are to visit their colleagues in Notting Hill to pick up tips on how to handle the city's first Caribbean carnival next month (below). One question the Wiltshire bobbies should ask is how to escape looking ludicrous as they place their helmets on the heads of gyrating limbo dancers.



WRITING in the brochure to mark Nato's 50th anniversary, Tony Blair praises the alliance: "Even more important than tanks and guns was the steadfast political will of the people." Has Blair suffered a memory lapse? In the early Eighties, the PM belonged to the CND's parliamentary group which backed withdrawal from Nato.

■ WHY has William Hague asked Michael Portillo to join him on the hustings? The former Defence Secretary and a possible leadership contender has embarked on a national tour to drum up support for the Tories in next month's local government elections.

Hague has even gone so far as to provide Portillo with one of the bright young things from his own office to offer every assistance. "It is a possible precursor to making Portillo the party chairman," I am told, "but is also a good way of sharing the blame if the elections go horribly wrong."

EDWARD WELSH

CLEAR TARGETS

Why there can be no let-up in the bombing

Three weeks into an air war that many Western politicians hoped might be over in days, Nato has yet to make more than a small impact on the murderous Serb campaign in Kosovo. The Yugoslav Army is still bombarding villages, which Slobodan Milosevic's secret police and paramilitary forces can then empty and burn. Periodically, the Serbs reopen the borders to let through clumps of fugitives. Perhaps 600,000 more are trapped in Kosovo's mountains, probably without shelter, medicines or food. Air power cannot see or help them. But in the great Pannonian plain of the Yugoslav heartland, Nato airstrikes are having an increasingly devastating effect.

For nearly a decade, Mr Milosevic has flattened cities and entire communities in Croatia, Bosnia and now Kosovo; but this is the first time that the citizens of Belgrade, Novi Sad or Nis have had to endure the physical terrors of bombardment. Their suffering does not begin to be commensurate; where Serb forces and police deliberately hunted down non-combatants, Nato has put the avoidance of civilian casualties ahead of military effectiveness. In a battle of will as well as skill, the military value of every target has been set against the risks of civil damage. Knowing this, the military leaders are dispersing equipment to farms, woods and towns and siting anti-aircraft batteries in residential areas. Mr Milosevic's special police are taking over schools.

That, and the intensification of airstrikes, will raise the death toll. But tens of thousands more will lose their jobs as more factories are destroyed. The economic damage to Yugoslavia is already huge and will become crippling. Nato started bombing with only 200 aircraft and a narrowly defined range of targets; but General Wesley Clark could soon have 1,000 planes. If Mr Milosevic does not yield, he will literally, as well as politically, have ensured the destruction of his country.

Despite this grim prospect, there has so far been little argument in Nato about what targets are legitimate. That is because before the campaign started, the military laid out its plans in detail, placing every target before the North Atlantic Council which then scrutinised and grouped them in terms of a graduated strategy. The agreed military concept was based on the recognition that the mobile columns and small paramilitary formations in Kosovo are hard to destroy from the air. The aim is therefore to cripple these forces by attacking the entire support system on which modern military operations rely.

The longer the campaign lasts, therefore, the grimmer will be its economic impact. Tanks cannot move without fuel: but nor can tractors, and Nato claims to have destroyed 70 per cent of Yugoslav petrol, oil and lubricant stocks. Factories turning out military trucks may also make cars; a bridge at Novi Sad carried fibre optic cables, but also commercial traffic; this week's attack on a railway bridge near Leskovac hit a passenger train. As our Defence Editor reports on page 5, Nato has damaged some 200 "target areas", some of them far from Kosovo. This remains an operation under close political control; hence the efforts to spare Montenegro, whose leaders have stood out against the subjugation of Kosovo. But inescapably, this tightening of the military screws will also pulverise the Yugoslav economy.

That is why Mr Milosevic expects Nato to waver. So long as he faces no personal danger, he may hold out whatever the cost to his countrymen; before the airstrikes began, he and his profiteering henchmen and relatives had already reduced the Yugoslav rump to lawless penury. Nato's campaign continues; but at some point it will have to weigh its options. At terrible cost, airstrikes will severely disrupt the Milosevic forces; but the sombre prospect remains that it may take ground troops, backed by massive air power, to drive them out of Kosovo. Preparations for that contingency are as urgent as ever.

ON PROBATION

Straw's tough choice looks more like a soft option

When a court sentences a criminal to probation, it should not be an easy option. Probation is not a rap on the knuckles but a manacling, albeit gentle. It has to be seen as one of a range of punishments which might follow conviction for a criminal offence. Prison may work, but not in every case. Instead of incarceration, many offenders are sentenced to up to several hundred hours' work in the community and the intrusive supervision of their daily lives by a probation officer. But the feeling persists among many that the convict who walks out of the courtroom with just a probation order is practically a free man.

Last August Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, promised to toughen probation. A Home Office paper on co-operation between prisons and the Probation Service emphasised that punishment was a central part of the probation process. It set out plans for a National Corrections Policy Framework and a nationally run Probation Service. The paper even went so far as to suggest a new, more punitive name. It argued that justice should, however it is applied, be seen to be done. These radical proposals gave cause for hope.

A nationally run Probation Service has much to recommend it. This should enable clear standards to be set for probation services all over the country. Also, the reorganisation of local probation services into areas which correspond to police and Crown Prosecution Service boundaries should enable closer co-operation between all the law enforcement agencies.

Effective probation, however, is not easily secured by a central government department. Probation officers rely on their extensive local knowledge, gained from close contact with the criminals whom they supervise. Consequently, local probation services need to be able to make decisions for themselves and to take action quickly. It is not yet clear whether a national Probation Service will mean a national bureaucracy and long delays as local initiatives are referred back to the Home Office for approval. Mr Straw should take care to ensure that this is not the case and that probation services retain the local autonomy which makes them work.

Mr Straw's stance on his other proposals appears to have softened. His retreat raises questions as to just how determined his reform of probation will be. In his speech to probation officers yesterday, there was no mention of renaming the service. Punishment was replaced by "Reduction of reoffending" and a National Corrections Policy was nowhere to be seen. The only indication that life might become harder for criminals on probation was in Mr Straw's suggestion that probation orders should be enforced in all cases.

Consistency would at least be a step in the right direction. Only a third of breaches of probation orders are acted upon at present. Enforcement is the key to any effective change. A new national Probation Service can set whatever standards it likes, but, unless these are actually acted upon, they will be worthless. It is not yet clear how Mr Straw's standards will be enforced. Meanwhile, the greatest hurdle to change has not yet been cleared: when will Mr Straw find the parliamentary time to push his planned legislation through? In the next parliamentary session he will be concentrating on overhauling the Race Relations Act after the Lawrence Inquiry. Probation is unlikely to make good election fodder for the year after. The Home Secretary, instead of taking a tough choice, may end up with a soft option.

A BREATH OF FRESH ARIA

Glyndebourne makes a sound move

For all its traditions of social propriety, of opulent picnic hampers and pre-Puccini Pimm's, Glyndebourne treasures a less established, more educative, intent. Although Mozart may have remained since the 1930s a mainstay of each season, the work of less familiar composers is often scheduled too. Directors are keen to dispel rumours that their productions are as easy on the palate as a glass of chilled Sancerre. And Glyndebourne's 1994 auditorium — the first British purpose-built opera house since John Christie incorporated the original theatre into his Elizabethan mansion fifty years before — improved the acoustics as well as the seating capacity. It should not simply serve, its directors insist, as a museum to classical pieces.

Of course, as divas warm up at wistaria twined casements, any cummerbunded corporate types picnicking below may enjoy humming along to familiar arias as teaspoons of caviare slip deliciously down. But Glyndebourne's programme should amount to far more than the provision of a seasonal cultural perk for the fat cat whose company made a block booking.

Nicholas Snowman, the new general director of the opera house, puts a more challenging ethos to the test. He aims to bring a breath of fresh aria to the stage. Celebrated old favourites will still be performed but, as we report on our arts pages today, Mr Snowman is on an ambitious mission to promote more esoteric works. He plans to revive Harrison Birtwistle's massive electronic opera *The Mask of Orpheus*, to commission the young British composer Thomas Adès, and to première *What Next?*, a complex new miniature opera by the American Elliott Carter. Even with the most commonly hummed composers, he will delve into the archives, reviving neglected works of Monteverdi with period instruments and embarking on a German Romantic project involving several 19th-century works previously considered unredeemable.

Mr Snowman takes exciting risks — not least at the box office. Often tastes are fine-tuned by familiarity. Palates are limited by lack of directorial daring. An introduction to a broader, more dissonant, cultural repertoire may chime with many imaginations. The intimacy of Glyndebourne lends itself to such individualistic enjoyment. As for any disappointed hummers out for a free supper in the sunset, they can pack an extra bottle of Pouilly Fumé in their picnic baskets and snooze comfortably through the performance — as indeed they have traditionally done.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Critics question Nato's campaign and its objectives

From Professor Sir Michael Howard

Sir, Professor Lawrence Freedman's article (April 9) about possible settlements for the Kosovo question raises some profoundly important issues for the conduct of the campaign.

Our ultimate objective, surely, is neither the resettlement of the refugees nor the punishment of Milosevic, but the creation of a stable settlement in the Balkans. This may best be done by the creation of a Nato protectorate over the whole of Kosovo, irrespective of the wishes of Serbia, or by some kind of agreed partition.

I am not an expert on the Balkans, but I can see the disadvantages of a condominium exercised by 19 or more Allies over a region that would still contain a resentful minority of Serbs, with an angry and revengeful homeland just beyond a long and indefensible border — a homeland made angrier and more revengeful with every bomb now being dropped. It seems a perfect recipe for a prolonged guerrilla war that would certainly keep Nato in business for the next century or so; but that is hardly the object of the exercise.

The alternative is a negotiated settlement that Serbia can live with, even if it does not satisfy the maximal demands of either side. The danger is that public opinion in the West is now becoming so heated that any compromise settlement will be condemned as surrender or, worse, "appeasement" and no Allied leader will dare to recommend it. But the longer the war goes on, the less likely it is that this option will remain open.

Sometimes making peace requires as much courage as waging war.

Yours etc,
MICHAEL HOWARD,
The Old Farm,
Eastbury, Hungerford RG17 7JN.
April 13.

From Mr Crispin Blunt, MP for Reigate (Conservative)

Sir, Many with military experience are bewildered as to how today's military leaders have allowed Nato's political leaders to get themselves into such a mess over Kosovo. They, and I, do not understand how Nato's military leaders can have allowed the organisation to embark on a military strategy that has been nothing short of an outrageous gamble given the political objectives set for it.

Against the humanitarian objectives given by the Prime Minister at the outset, the strategy has already failed. The political objectives of containment have failed. The objective of reinforcing regional stability is being met by crises in Macedonia, Albania, Montenegro and Greece.

On the day the bombing started George Robertson told the House of Commons Defence Committee:

> Our military objective — our clear, simple, military objective — will be to reduce the Serbs' capability to oppress the Albanian population and thus to avert a humanitarian disaster.

Who advised him that this could be achieved?

The Chief of Defence Staff, General Sir Charles Guthrie, has enthusiastically made the case for the current strategy in newspaper articles and at the daily press conferences. When I asked the Defence Secretary on March 31 in the House to name a single independent commentator who believed that Nato's military strategy would deliver its political objectives, he took refuge behind the advice of the Chief of Defence Staff.

There remains a disconnect between the military strategy and the new political objectives of restoring the situation in Kosovo in the wake of the humanitarian catastrophe precipitated once Milosevic decided to take Nato on. The use of air power alone continues to be an irresponsible gamble as far as these new objectives are concerned. There is no clarity about how the military means willed so far can achieve the aim. Instead there is a classic case of mission creep, for example with the introduction of Apache helicopters and Multiple Launch Rocket Systems (report, April 12).

If Nato articulated a military strategy that, however long it took, would deliver its political objectives, the view from Belgrade would be very different. There is no sign of this happening.

It is my judgment that it is unreasonable to expect the Armed Forces to continue to have confidence in the military advice being given to ministers by their chief military adviser. I have very reluctantly come to the conclusion that this should be said publicly. We need a new strategy and a new chief to articulate it.

Yours faithfully,
CRISPIN BLUNT,
House of Commons.
April 13.

From Sir Nicholas Pearson

Sir, In the matter of Serbia our Prime Minister is said to be motivated by the wholly Christian sense that, faced by such suffering, we must do something. It appears that after some days of harrowing images on the television, public opinion is moving behind him. I suspect not for long.

May the unpalatable truth be that there is little we can effectively do without making the whole area even more unstable? Did the Americans learn nothing from their bombing of Cambodia and destabilisation and ruination that followed the destruction of infrastructure?

There is a chilling zeal and certainty about the Prime Minister's fervour that stands at odds with the complex realities of an ancient tribal situation that, in itself, is simply not our business. Our leader's emotional calls to stop the violence are of course understandable but not by the paradoxical and wholly ineffective method of bombing.

We should immediately cease the bombing. We should seal off the area with strong Nato forces on the key borders in order to help the regional governments to maintain order and stability. We should provide massive humanitarian help where we are able. By this action Nato will have achieved order and been seen to achieve order.

We should then, for the moment, leave the region to sort out its own mess. When the parties choose to decide that economics are more important than killing each other, then we should help them all we are able.

Let us act with firmness and imagination and we may yet contain the contents of Pandora's box before it is too late.

Sincerely,
NICHOLAS PEARSON,
9 Upper Addison Gardens, W14 8AL.
April 13.

From Mr M. H. Stevenson

Sir, The Nato official who banged on about the unfortunate loss of life in the attack on the Serbian rail bridge (report, April 13) should have responded to the question "Were there any civilian casualties?" by saying "Yes. Next question".

There are many who seem to think it is possible to wage a war without incurring any loss of human life. History shows this to be a futile objective.

It would be a far greater tragedy if Nato allowed its resolve to be weakened by this event and demonstrated that Mr Milosevic is, indeed, as invulnerable as his followers would have us believe.

Yours etc,
M. H. STEVENSON,
92 Imber Road, Winchester,
Hampshire SO23 0NH.
stevess@uk.ibm.com
April 13.

Power of non-elected judiciary to change the law

From Mr Francis Bennion and Mr Gerald Howarth, MP for Aldershot (Conservative)

Sir, We write in support of Mr J. B. McGuinness (letter, April 8), who stated that the law lords had stepped over the mark in their decision regarding so-called institutionalised discrimination against women. Unfortunately such judicial expansionism is only too common today.

The former Home Office Minister, Lord Patten, recently pointed out (article, March 16) that over the years "judges have taken more and more powers to themselves", and that this, when linked to the new constitutional role that legislation is giving them, radically alters the balance of power in the State. It upsets that separation of powers between legislator and judiciary which is one of the proud boasts of our constitution.

In another recent article (*New Law Journal*, March 19) one of the undersigned, Francis Bennion, criticised the decision of the law lords in the Kleinwort Benson case. Here, by three to two, they purported to overturn, as if by parliamentary legislation, the longstanding rule of the common law that payments made under a mistake of law are irrecoverable. One of the majority, Lord Goff of Chieveley, blatantly described what they were doing as the "abrogation" of this rule. Abrogation equals repeal, and our judges do not possess the repealing power. It seems that some of them are seeking to assume it.

The latter article also criticised another recent decision where the law lords (again by three to two) purported to change the longstanding common law rule that highways are only to be used for passing and repassing, and matters incidental to that. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, decided this was too constricted for modern conditions. You reported him (Law Report, March 5) as saying:

> To limit lawful use of the highway to that which was literally "incidental or ancillary" to the right of passage would be to place an unrealistic and unwarranted restriction on commonplace day-to-day activities. The public highway was a public place that the public might enjoy for any reasonable purpose.

The OED (second edition, 1994) defines "warranted" as "allowed by law or authority; approved, justified, sanctioned". The Lord Chancellor is saying that the well-established existing rule about highways is "unwarranted" when in fact it is just the opposite.

These matters go to the heart of how we are governed as a nation, and affect everyone. In particular they affect the business community, who look to certainty in the law. The growing propensity of judges to change the law whenever they see fit is dangerous to our commercial prosperity, as well as to our freedom.

Changes in the law should be made by Parliament after full public consultation and debate. They should not be made by judges, who are appointed not elected and lack the means to consult those affected and to acquire the necessary background information.

Yours faithfully,
FRANCIS BENNION,
GERALD HOWARTH,
c/o 5 Old Nursery View,
Kennington, Oxford OX1 5NT.
April 10.

From Sir Christopher Staughton

Sir, Naturally enough I share the concern of Mr McGuinness at a recent decision of the law lords, since it overruled a decision of my own.

The right of refugees to asylum granted by the Geneva Convention is, it would seem, to be greatly extended. But the remedy which he proposes must be scrutinised with great care, lest it turn out to be worse than the disease.

That the selection process for the judiciary should become "more open and accountable" is fine. Are we then to have judges elected by popular vote, and dismissed in the same way? In at least one country where that happens there are cases — no doubt rare — of quite improper pressure being deliberately imposed on judges, by politicians for populist reasons.

We must tread warily in changing the method of appointing judges — for fear of something worse.

Yours truly,
CHRISTOPHER STAUGHTON,
20 Essex Street, WC2R 3AL.
April 9.

Civil legal aid

From the Director of Victim Support

Sir, The Access to Justice Bill returns to the House of Commons on Wednesday, April 14. Yet some of its provisions seem to conflict with the Protection from Harassment Act — a previous piece of Labour government legislation.

The Act provides special protection for victims of racial harassment, stalking and domestic violence, often by way of an injunction gained through the civil courts. However, the new legislation prioritises civil legal aid only to victims of direct violence. Victims of harassment — a problem which has only recently been recognised — are left unprotected.

We hope the Government will look at this again during the time that the Bill remains in the Commons in order to ensure that civil legal aid is equally available for all victims requiring protection from harassment.

Yours faithfully,
HELEN REEVES,
Director,
Victim Support,
Cranmer House,
39 Brixton Road, SW9 6DZ.
April 12.

Last in the field

From the Deputy Bailiff of Jersey

Sir, In your report on the Scottish elections (April 9) you described Culloden as "the last *real* [my italics] battle fought on British soil".

Last year I approached (with some trepidation) an enormous Scots guardian at Culloden and spoke with some indignation, as a native Jerseyman, of the Battle of Jersey, January 1781. He fixed me with a withering look: "This was the last *pitched* battle on British soil."

"Real?" "Pitched?" What then was the Battle of Jersey, immortalised by Copley's great painting in the Tate Gallery?

Yours faithfully,
FRANCIS HAMON,
The Bailiff's Chambers,
Royal Court House, Jersey JE1 1DD.
April 9.

Business letters, page 27

**Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk***

Cost of music lessons

From Mr David Andrews

Sir, I moved from being a comprehensive school head of music to an independent boarding school 22 years ago, partly because I saw where the local education authority music provision was leading (letter, April 5).

At the time I was criticised for furthering musical elitism. Who is encouraging elitism now?

State school parents pay up to 50 per cent more for the same lessons as provided by the all-graduate staff at my own school.

The children in our new prep school will be able to start musical instruments on a one-to-one basis at below the state cost, and this is just the age to encourage learning — strings especially.

Many local authorities pay little more than lip service to their peripatetic music service. The more honest ones actually admit it.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID ANDREWS,
Harrogate Ladies' College,
Clarence Drive,
Harrogate HG1 2QG.
music@hlc.org.uk
April 5.

John Diamond's battle with cancer

From Mrs Verena Pentlow

Sir, John Diamond (book extracts, March 29 and 30; columns April 3 and 10) may fight shy of adjectives such as brave and courageous in his battle with cancer, but there can be few readers left unmoved by his humble and humorous approach.

As children, my two siblings and I lived, with our mother, through my father's long and brave battle with cancer. However, there was no communication about his illness, either between him and his doctors or with us as a family, and the effects are still with us today to the extent that I find this letter difficult to write.

Carry on John, enjoying your family and puppy, with openness, honesty and laughter. May you enjoy many more precious moments.

Yours faithfully,
VERENA PENTLOW,
11 Wells Road,
Riseley, Bedford MK44 1DY.
April 10.

From Dr Justin Stebbing

Sir, From across the Atlantic my colleagues and I read John Diamond with deep affection and are reminded of a quote from the American author Theodore H. White (*The Book of Beasts*, Dover Publications, 1984):

> The best thing for being sad . . . is to learn something. That is the only thing that never fails. You may grow old and trembling in your anatomies, you may lie awake at night listening to the disorder of your veins, you may miss your only love, you may see the world about you devastated by evil lunatics, or know your honour trampled in the sewers of baser minds. There is only one thing for it then — to learn. Learn why the world wags and what wags it.
>
> *This is the only thing which the mind can* never exhaust, never alienate, never be tortured by, never fear or distrust, and never dream of regretting.

From you, John Diamond, we are as ever humbled and learn so much. Thank you always.

Sincerely,
JUSTIN STEBBING,
Department of Medicine,
The Johns Hopkins Hospital,
Baltimore, Maryland 21205.
jstebb@welchlink.welch.jhu.edu
April 10.

Joy of birdwatching

From the Reverend Ian Stratton

Sir, When Burma became independent on January 4, 1948, British Forces personnel sailed from Rangoon in the *SS Empire Trooper*. The servicemen on board received a surprise when the voice of the Officer Commanding Troops came over the Tannoy system, not with the expected disciplinary notices but describing the gulls following the ship and enthusing about one among them, a vagrant of a species normally found in northern waters.

One of those servicemen later became a birdwatcher himself, but until reading your obituary notice of Lieutenant-Colonel C. L. Boyle (April 2) he never knew the name of the enthusiast who had first shown him the joy the hobby can give, and the influence that sharing the joy can have.

Yours faithfully,
IAN STRATTON,
20 Bradley Road,
Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 8BP.
April 8.

Scottish victory

From Mr Alasdair Hunter

Sir, After the shenanigans before the start of the Five Nations Championship over England's participation, how correct has the decision to reinstate them been seen to be.

My fellow Scots (and probably not a few Welsh or Irish) would, I'm sure, agree that winning a tournament that did not include England would be a hollow victory indeed.

Yours faithfully,
ALASDAIR HUNTER,
Chequers Lodge, Chequers Close,
Grimston, King's Lynn PE32 1AT.
April 11.

EU patron saint

From Mr James Macdonald

Sir, The European Union may have its flag, but it lacks a patron saint.

With the European Central Bank's inflexible control in mind, I propose the tyrant Procrustes. His chop or stretch methods of harmonisation make him the ideal candidate.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES MACDONALD,
58 Clifford Avenue,
Taunton, Somerset TA2 6DL.
April 12.

Otherwise engaged

From Mr P. D. Doherty

Sir, What freak of circumstance renders the inaptly named customer care service lines of service providers permanently engaged, or otherwise unobtainable, while their sales/marketing lines are always open and readily accessible?

Yours faithfully,
P. D. DOHERTY,
5 Tancred Road,
Luton, Bedfordshire LU2 7XA.
April 13.



COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE
April 13: The Queen held a Council at 12.40pm.

There were present: The Rt Hon Margaret Beckett (President), the Rt Hon Nick Brown (Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food) and the Rt Hon Helen Liddell (Minister of State, Scottish Office).

The Rt Hon Lord Williams of Mostyn and the Rt Hon Paul East were sworn in as Members of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council.

Mr Alex Galloway was in attendance as Clerk of the Council.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh gave a Dinner Party at which The Duke of York was present.

The following were invited: The Leader of the Opposition and Mrs Hague, His Excellency the Ambassador of Lebanon, His Excellency the High Commissioner for Barbados and Mrs Simmons, the Reverend Dr and Mrs Victor Dobbin, the Marquess of Hartington, the Earl and Countess Cairns, the Master of the Rolls and Lady Woolf, Sir John Eliot Gardiner, Mr and Mrs Frederick Forsyth, the Dean of Windsor and Mrs Conner, Mr and Mrs Philip Everett and Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs Paddy Taber.

The Queen was represented by The Duke of Edinburgh, Admiral of the Fleet, at the Service of Thanksgiving for the life of the Lord Lewin, Admiral of the Fleet, which was held at the Chapel of the Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich, today. The Duke of York attended.

The Prince of Wales was represented by Admiral Sir Jock Slater.

The Princess Royal was represented by Captain Annette Picton, RN.

The Duke of Kent was represented by Lieutenant Commander Sir Richard Buckley, RN.

Prince Michael of Kent was represented by Commodore Muriel Hocking, RNR.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 13: The Duke of York, Patron, this afternoon received Mr Mumford on relinquishing his post as Chairman of the Jubilee Sailing Trust, and Mr Dunning on assuming the post, at Buckingham Palace.

April 13: The Princess Royal, President, The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, this morning attended the Annual Conference of the Association of Inner Wheel clubs in Great Britain and Ireland, Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre, Clyde Auditorium, Glasgow, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Glasgow (Mr Pat Lally, the Right Hon the Lord Provost).

Her Royal Highness, Patron, World Cooks' Tour for Hunger, this afternoon attended a Lunch at the Glasgow Moat House Hotel, Congress Road, Glasgow.

The Princess Royal, President, The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, later attended the East Ayrshire Carers Centre Information Day at 49 The Foregate and The Grand Hall, Kilmarnock, East Ayrshire and was received by Colonel John Dalrymple-Hamilton (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Ayrshire and Arran).

Her Royal Highness, President, Save the Children Fund, subsequently attended a Reception at the City Chambers, George Square, Glasgow.

CLARENCE HOUSE
April 13: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, President of the Victoria Cross and George Cross Association, was present this afternoon at a Service of Remembrance and Re-Dedication at the Church of St Martin-in-the-Field.

Her Majesty was subsequently present at the President's Reception at Australia House.

The Hon Mrs Rhodes and Sir Alastair Aird were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
April 13: The Duke of Gloucester this morning called upon the Minister of Economy (Mr Emil Wasacz), the President of the Polish Business Roundtable (Mrs Henryka Bochniarz) and the President of the Polish Agency for Foreign Investment (Mr Adam Pawlowicz), Warsaw.

His Royal Highness afterwards laid a Wreath at the Umschlagplatz Memorial, Warsaw.

The Duke of Gloucester later attended a lunch given by the British Polish Chamber of Commerce at the Bristol Hotel, Warsaw.

His Royal Highness this evening attended a Piano Recital and Reception at the City Hall, Poznan, Poland.

The Duchess of Gloucester today visited East Sussex and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant (Admiral Sir Lindsay Bryson).

Her Royal Highness visited the Downs School (for children with special needs), Eastbourne, East Sussex.

The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, SeeAbility, afterwards opened Bardsey House (Residential housing for visually impaired young adults), St Peter's Road, Seaford, East Sussex, as part of the Bi-Centenary celebrations of the Royal School for the Blind.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
April 13: Princess Alexandra this afternoon opened Chelsham House, the new assessment unit for elderly residents of Croydon, at the Bethlem Royal Hospital, Monks Orchard Road, Beckenham.

Her Royal Highness, Deputy President of the British Red Cross Society, afterwards visited the British Red Cross Shop at 129 High Street, Penge.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will give a reception at Windsor Castle for members of the Victoria Cross and George Cross Association, at noon.

The Duke of Edinburgh, patron, will attend a dinner for Voluntary Service Overseas at Frogmore House, Windsor, at 7.30.

The Princess Royal, President of the Patrons, Crime Concern, will visit the Route 53 Mentoring Plus Project, Brentford Avenue, Cheetham, Manchester, at 11.05 followed by a seminar at Manchester University's refectory building, Burlington Street. She will visit Manchester High School for Girls to mark its 125th anniversary year, Grangethorpe Road, Manchester, at 1.50; and will visit St Ann's Hospice, Little Hulton, Salford, at 3.30.

The Duke of Kent, patron, Stroke Association, will attend the association's centenary year International Scientific Conference at the Royal College of Physicians, London, at 4.00.

For more details about the Royal Family visit the royal web site at: www.royal.gov.uk

Rear-Admiral Roy Foster-Brown

A service of thanksgiving for Rear-Admiral Roy Foster-Brown, CB, will be held at the Church of St Margaret, Lothbury, London, EC2, on Wednesday, May 5, at 11.00am.

Leslie French

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Leslie French will be held at St Paul's Church, Covent Garden, on Friday, April 23, at 11.00am. All welcome.

Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin, KG



The Queen was represented by the Duke of Edinburgh, who read the lesson, at a service of celebration for the life and work of Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin, KG, held yesterday in the Old Royal Naval College Chapel Greenwich.

The Prince of Wales was represented by Admiral Sir Jock Slater. The Duke of York attended.

The Princess Royal was represented by Captain Annette Picton, RN, the Duke of Kent by Lieutenant Commander Sir Richard Buckley, RN, and Prince Michael of Kent by Commodore Muriel Hocking, RNR.

The Hon Tim Lewin, son, bade welcome. The Rev Dr Charles Stewart, Chaplain of the Fleet, officiated, assisted by the Rev Arthur Nunnerley, who said the Naval Prayer.

Mr Cosmo Roe, grandson, read John Masefield's *Sea-Fever*.

Vice-Admiral Sir Roderick MacDonald, Commodore David Smith, RN, and Dr Roger Knight, Deputy Director of the National Maritime Museum, paid tribute.

Lord Lewin's Orders and Decorations were carried from the West Door to the Altar by Guardsman Hall, Senior Aircraftsman Judge, Marine I. Bagley and OM2 J. Collins.

After the service Bugler C. Brown and Corporal Bugler P. Gordon played *Sunset*.

The Secretary of State for Defence, the Chief of the Defence Staff, the First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff, and the Commandant General, Royal Marines attended.

The Colonel Commandant, Royal Marines was represented by Major-General Andrew Keeling and the Chief of the Air Staff by Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Squire.

Baroness Thatcher, LG, OM, FRS, accompanied by Sir Denis Thatcher, attended.

The High Commissioner for Malta was represented by Mr Joseph Cole and the Falkland Islands Government by Miss S. Cameron. The Agent General for British Columbia was present.

The Lord-Lieutenant of Norfolk and the Leader of Hampshire County Council attended. Among others present were:

The Hon Jon and Mrs Lewin (son and daughter-in-law), Mr and the Hon Mrs Peter Roe (son-in-law and daughter), Mr Josh Lewin, Mr Peter Marsh, Miss Niki Marsh, Miss Jessica Roe and Miss Emily Roe (grandchildren) and other members of the family.

The Earl of Inchcape (Prime Warden, Shipwright's Company) with other members of the livery, Viscount Caldecote, Lord and Lady Armstrong of Ilminster, Lord Blaker, Field Marshal Lord Bramall, KG, and Lady Bramall, Lord Carrington, CH, Field Marshal Lord Carver, Marshal of the RAF Lord Craig of Radley, Lady Fieldhouse, Field Marshal Lord and Lady Inge, Lord Owen, CH, Field Marshal Lord and Lady Vincent of Coleshill, Sir Frank and Lady Cooper, Sir John and Lady Nott, Sir Michael Palliser, the Hon Mrs Marten, Sir Robin Gillet, Sir Christopher and Lady Lever.

Admiral of the Fleet Sir Edward and Lady Ashmore, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Benjamin Bathurst, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Peter and Lady Hill-Norton, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Julian Oswald, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Michael Pollock, Field Marshal Sir John Stanier, Marshal of the RAF Sir Michael and Lady Beetham.

Admiral Sir Peter and Lady Abbott, Admiral Sir Jeremy and Lady Black, Admiral Sir John and Lady Brigstocke, Admiral Sir Brian Brown (Friends of the Royal Naval Museum), Admiral Sir John and Lady Bush, Admiral Sir Simon and Lady Cassels, Admiral Sir Desmond Cassidi (Royal Naval Association) and Lady Cassidi, Sir James Eberle, Admiral Sir Peter Herbert, Admiral Sir Michael Layard, Admiral Sir Michael Livesay, Admiral Sir William O'Brien, Admiral Sir John and Lady Treacher, Admiral Sir Peter White, General Sir Patrick Howard-Dobson, Air Chief Marshal Sir John Barraclough, Air Chief Marshal Sir David Evans (Order of the Bath), Air Chief Marshal Sir Joseph Gilbert, Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael and Lady Graydon, Air Chief Marshal Sir Douglas and Lady Lowe.

Vice-Admiral Sir Peter and Lady Austin, Vice-Admiral Sir Thomas and Lady Baird, Vice-Admiral Sir Peter Berger, Vice-Admiral Sir Stephen Berthon, Vice-Admiral Sir Jeremy Blackham, Vice-Admiral Sir David and Lady Brown, Vice-Admiral Sir Peter Buchanan, Vice-Admiral Sir Geoffrey Dalton, Vice-Admiral Sir David Dobson, Vice-Admiral Sir John Dunt (Chief of Fleet Support), Vice-Admiral Sir John Forbes, Vice-Admiral Sir Toby Frere (RNVR Officers Association and Naval Club).

Vice-Admiral the Hon Nicholas Hill-Norton (GEC Marconi Electronic System), Vice-Admiral Sir Ted Horlick, Vice-Admiral Sir John Lea, Vice-Admiral Sir David Loram, Vice-Admiral Sir Gerard and Lady Mansfield, Vice-Admiral Sir John and Lady Martin, Vice-Admiral Sir Ian and Lady McGeoch, Surgeon Vice-Admiral Sir Godfrey Milton-Thompson, Vice-Admiral Sir Michael and Lady Moore, Vice-Admiral Sir Christopher Morgan (Chamber of Shipping), Vice-Admiral Sir Cameron Rusby.

Vice-Admiral Sir Patrick and Lady Symons, Vice-Admiral Sir Anthony and Lady Troup, Vice-Admiral Sir George Vallings, Vice-Admiral Sir Philip Watson, Surgeon Vice-Admiral Sir James Watt (Society for Nautical Research), Vice-Admiral Sir James Weatherall, Vice-Admiral Sir Barry Wilson (SSAFA - Forces Help), Lieutenant-General Sir Maurice Johnston, Lieutenant-General Sir John and Lady Richards, Lieutenant-General Sir Robin Ross.

Rear Admiral Sir David and Lady Scott, Rear-Admirals Sir John Garnier, Sir Paul Greening, Sir Morgan Morgan-Giles and Sir Richard Trowbridge; Major-General Sir Jeremy Moore, Lieutenant-Commander Sir Russell and Lady Wood, Sir Robert Atkinson, Sir Robert Clark, Sir Patrick Duffy, Sir Malcolm Edge, Sir Philip Goodhart.

Sir Donald Gosling, Dame Mary Haig (BSES Expeditions), Sir David Hardy, Sir Ludovic Kennedy, Sir Robin and Lady Knox-Johnston, Lady MacDonald, Sir Brian McGrath, Sir Hayden Phillips, Sir Miles Wingate, Sir Kerry and Lady St Johnston, Sir Moray Stewart, Sir Charles Tidbury, Sir Angus Stirling (chairman, Greenwich Foundation for the Old Royal Naval College) with Mr Francis Carnwarth (director); Sir Arthur Weller.

Mr Roger Jackling, Mrs R G H Fulton, Mrs Andrew Keeling, Vice-Admiral M P Gretton (Duke of Edinburgh's Award) and Mrs Gretton, Vice-Admirals J H S McAnally and Alan West; Rear-Admiral C C H Dunlop and Commandant Elizabeth Craig-McFeely, Surgeon Rear-Admiral I L Jenkins, Rear-Admiral and Mrs David Hepworth, Rear-Admiral and Mrs Derek Satow, Rear-Admiral and Mrs W A Higgins, Rear-Admiral and Mrs Nicholas Wilkinson, Rear-Admiral and Mrs Austin Lockyer, Rear-Admiral and Mrs J R S Gerrard-Pearse, Rear-Admiral and Mrs C H Layman, Rear-Admiral and Mrs W J Graham.

Rear-Admirals J S Grove (Friends of RNM and *HMS Victory*), D M Eckersley-Maslin (Algerines Association), P G Hammersley, M G T Harris (Clothworkers), P F Grenier, Jonathon Band, G A Baxter, T H Bradbury, T R Cruddas, J Richard Hill, H Hollins, D C Jenkin, David W Kirke, Guy Liardet, R J Lippiett, J P B O'Riordan, R T R Phillips, J O Roberts, John K Robertson, I G W Robertson, Patrick Rowe (Deputy Master, Trinity House), Peter Spencer, Michael Stacey and A J Whetstone; Major-Generals D A S Pennefather and T P Toyne Sewell, Air Vice-Marshal David Brook.

Dr D D Aldridge, Mr Michael Brotherton, Mr John Bevars, Mr Winston S Churchill, Mr Tom Dalton, Mr and Mrs Denis Doble, Mr Hugh Dykes, Mr and Mrs Adrian Holloway, Mr and Mrs Alistair Jaffray, Mrs Roger Knight, Judge Lyons, Mr Allan MacDonald, Commandant Vonla McBride, Captain and Mrs D W Napper, Commander John Nelson, Lieutenant Commander F.L. Phillips, Captain and Mrs M P Savage, Mr Jonathan Seyeed, MP, Lieutenant-Colonel D L Drysdale (RM Association), Mr William Cockcroft (a Chief Commissioner of England, Scouts).

Representatives of: Nato, National Historic Ships Committee, King George's Fund for Sailors, US (Ports) Rugby Football Association, Sussex RNVR and RNR Officers Association, 12th Sub Flotilla Association, RN Association, *Army Quarterly and Defence Journal*, The D Group, Merchant Navy Association, St Audry's Hospital Golf Course, Society for Nautical Research.

The White Ensign Association, Imperial War Museum, Maritime Books, Lloyds TSB Group, Friends of War Memorials, Tate Gallery, the Judd School, Tonbridge, Old Juddian Society, Old Juddian Association, Metropolitan Police, RM Historical Society, Gallipoli Association, Naval Historical Branch, RN Rescue Tug Service Veterans, Skinners' Company, British Museum, Master Mariners Association, Company of Stationers and Newspaper Makers.

The Shipwrecked Mariners Society, Army and Navy Club, *HMS Ganges* Association, *HMS Ganges* Museum, Shotley, Museums and Galleries Commission, George Cross Island Association, Family Heart Association, Officers' Pensions Society, Southampton Master Mariners Club, Association of Royal Yachtsmen, Shipwrecked Fishermen and Mariners' Royal Benevolent Society, Cazenove Fund Management, Pangbourne College.

The Old Pangbournian Society, Russian Convoy Club, Parliamentary Maritime Group, Portsmouth University, Portsmouth Grammar School, Neptune Court, Joan Spencer School of Music, Royal Canadian Navy, College of Arms, Maritime Trust, Merchant Navy, Trinity House Service.

Colleagues who served with Lord Lewin on *HM Ships Warrior, Hermes, Ashanti, Brighton, Vindictive, Britannia, Tenby, Excellent, Vigilant, Chequers, Raleigh, Urchin, Blake, Hermione, Kent, Achilles and Chrysanthemum* with many other friends and associates.

Forthcoming marriages

Dr N.E. Brook
and Dr M.H. Annan
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Brook, of Dorking, Surrey, and Mary, daughter of Mr and Mrs Robin Annan, of Scalby, North Yorkshire.

Signor P. Calabretta
and Miss L.E. Legard
The engagement is announced between Pietro, son of Signor and Signora Calabretta, of Rome, Italy, and Louise, daughter of Sir Charles Legard, Bt, of Scampston, Yorkshire, and Mrs Hibbert-Foy, of Charlcot, Yorkshire.

Mr P.A. Dodds
and Miss G.C.G. Ross
The engagement is announced between Philip Anthony, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Denis Dodds, of Bickley, Kent, and Geraldine Catherine Ghislaine, only daughter of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs Christopher Ross, of Quidhampton, Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Mr P.A. Ford
and Miss S. Williams
The engagement is announced between Patrick, younger son of the late Major Paddy Ford and of Mrs Cynthia Ford, of Alphamstone, Suffolk, and Sue, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Colin Williams, of St Austell, Cornwall.

Mr R.H.V. Harrison
and Miss H.F. Wilmshurst
The engagement is announced between Robert, elder son of Mr and Mrs Martin Harrison, of Snape, Suffolk, and Helen, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Wilmshurst, of Longniddry, East Lothian.

Mr C.J. Jacoby
and Miss T.M.B. de Salis
The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mr Martin Jacoby, of San Pablo de Buceite, Spain, and of Mrs Christopher Drewe, of Drewsteignton, Devon, and Theresa, daughter of Count and Countess Charles de Salis.

Mr D.P. Jenkins
and Miss K.M. Cook
The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr William R. Jenkins and the late Mrs Ann Jenkins, of Melbourne, Australia, and Karen, daughter of Captain and Mrs Alasdair Cook, of Strathyre, Perthshire.

Dr F.G. MacFarlane
and Miss L.T. Griffin
The engagement is announced between Fraser, youngest son of Dr and Mrs William MacFarlane, of Newcastle upon Tyne, and Lucy, daughter of Mr and Mrs Keith Griffin, of Newcastle under Lyme.

Mr M.L. McIlvenna
and Miss H.E. Stephens
The engagement is announced between Luke, son of Mr and Mrs Michael McIlvenna, of Forest Hill, Oxford, and Hannah Elizabeth, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Mark Stephens, of Much Hadham, Hertfordshire.

Dr P.E. Heard
and Miss A. Bouziotas
The marriage will take place next month in Bath, between Peter Edyvean Heard and AnnaMaria Bouziotas.

Mr J.J. Mitchell
and Miss A.D. Forestier-Walker
The engagement is announced between John, son of the late Mr Johnny Francis Mitchell and of Mrs Mitchell, of Cambridge, and Annabel, daughter of Mr and Mrs Robin Forestier-Walker, of Aldeburgh, Suffolk.

Mr A.M.W. Moffat
and Miss C.L. Blackwell
The engagement is announced between Andrew Maclean William Moffat and Charlotte Louise Blackwell, both of Fulham, London.

Mr C.J. Moss, QC
and Miss L.A. O'Dwyer
The engagement is announced between Christopher John, elder son of Joy Cohen, of Bath, and the late Jack Moss, and Lisa Annette, eldest daughter of Barry and Philomena O'Dwyer, of Woking, Surrey.

Mr T.H. Payne
and Miss M.J. Higgins
The engagement is announced between Miranda Jane, only daughter of Mr and Mrs John Higgins, of Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, and Thomas Henry, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Keith Payne, of Knowle, West Midlands.

Dr R.A. Slack
and Dr N.J. Maxwell
The engagement is announced between Alex, second son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Slack, of Bourne End, Buckinghamshire, and Nicola, daughter of Wing Commander and Mrs Anthony Maxwell, of Alderney, Channel Islands.

Mr A.H. Timms and
Señorita P. Martin-Barbadillo
The engagement is announced between Andrew, younger son of Mr and Mrs Henry Timms, of Walton-on-Trent, Derbyshire, and *Patricia*, elder daughter of Los Vizcondes de Casa González, of Jerez de la Frontera, Spain.

Mr P.E. Williams-Jolliffe
and Miss A.L. Thirtle
The engagement is announced between Peter, son of Mr and Mrs E.R. Talbot, of Apethorpe, Northamptonshire, and Allison, daughter of Mr and Mrs M. Pettitt, of Ramsey, Cambridgeshire.

Marriage

Mr W.A.M.O. Jodrell
and Miss N. d'Agapeyeff
The marriage took place on Saturday at St Eadburgha's Church, Broadway, of Mr William Jodrell to Miss Natasha d'Agapeyeff. Canon Peter Burch officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Amanda Leong. Mr Alastair Vaux was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon is being spent in Mauritius.



School news

Leeds Grammar School
Summer term commenced on April 12, being the last term before retirement for the Headmaster, Bryan Collins and for the Chaplain, the Rev Mike Hanson, who is taking early retirement. Simon Peters continues as Head of School; Alex Wood is Captain of Cricket. The Founders' Day Service will be held in Leeds Parish Church on Sunday, May 9. The Past v Present matches will be held at the School on Saturday, July 3. Old Leos will be welcome on both occasions, please contact the Headmaster's secretary for further details.

St Dunstan's College
Summer Term starts today at St Dunstan's College and will end on July 9. The Service of Commemoration of Founders and Benefactors will be held at Southwark Cathedral on May 28 at 11am, the preacher being Canon Lawrence Gunner. Members of the College will participate in the Beating of the Bounds of All Hallows by the Tower with St Dunstan's in the East and the Ascension Day Festival Evensong on May 13. Open Day and Old Dunstonian Day will be July 3. The Summer Concert takes place on July 8 and cricket week starts with the game against the MCC on July 5. The Catford Arts Festival takes place at the College from July 4 to 6; further details may be obtained from the College. Junior School Prizegiving will be on July 7 and the Lower School Play on Wednesday, May 19, and Thursday, May 20. Captain of Cricket is P.J. Brightman, and L.D. Antonio is Captain of Athletics.

St John's School, Leatherhead
The Summer Term begins today at St John's School, Leatherhead. Alex Forsdike is School Captain. Group Captain N. Gammon will inspect the Combined Cadet Force on Thursday, May 13. The Junior Play is Sean O'Casey's *Juno and the Paycock* and is on May 26, 27 and 28 and on June 30 and July 2 the ODS will perform *Fallen Angels* by Noel Coward. The Bishop of Dorking will perform a service of Baptism and Confirmation on Sunday, April 25, and Choral Evensong is at 6.30pm on May 18. Duk Kyu Kim will give a piano recital at 8pm on June 10. Old Johnian Sunday is on June 27 when the preacher at the 10.30 Eucharist will be the Right Rev Edward Darling, Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe; the School Concert is at 7.30pm that evening. Prize giving is on July 3 when the Guest of Honour will be Field Marshal Lord Vincent of Coleshill. The School is holding an Open Evening from 6pm to 8.30pm on Friday, June 18.

The Victoria Cross and George Cross Association

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother attended a service of remembrance and rededication for the Victoria Cross and George Cross Association held yesterday at St Martin-in-the-Fields.

The Rev Nicholas Holtam officiated, assisted by the Ven Simon Golding, Archdeacon of the Royal Navy, and Father David Hewitt, RAF. Colonel Stuart Archer, GC, Chairman of the VC and GC Association, read the lesson and Colonel A.A. Porteous, VC, said the Act of Remembrance.

The Bishop of London gave an address. The Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London was represented by Major-General Peter Istead. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Westminster attended.

The Chief of the Defence Staff was represented by Air Marshal Sir John Day, the Chief of the General Staff by Major-General A.W. Lyons, the Chief of the Naval Staff and First Sea Lord by Commodore P. Greenish and the Chief of the Air Staff by Air Vice-Marshal K.D. Filbey.

Reception

St Mary's College, Durham
Emeritus Professor Sir Arnold Wolfendale, FRS, was the host at a reception to mark the centenary of St Mary's College, Durham University, held yesterday at the Banqueting House, Whitehall.

Dinners

London Mayors' Association
Lord Imbert, Lord-Lieutenant for Greater London, was the guest of honour at a dinner of the London Mayors' Association held last night in Westminster City Hall. The Lord Mayor of Westminster, chairman, was the host and Councillor Robert Davis, executive chairman, also spoke.

Institute of Physics
Professor Sir Gareth Roberts, FRS, President of the Institute of Physics, was in the chair at the annual congress dinner held last night at Manchester United Football Club.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Ortelius, cartographer of the first atlas, Antwerp, 1527; Barbara Wootton, Baroness Wootton of Abinger, sociologist, Cambridge, 1897; François Duvalier, President of Haiti 1957-71, Port-au-Prince, 1907.

DEATHS: Richard Neville, (The Kingmaker), Earl of Warwick and Earl of Salisbury, killed, Battle of Barnet, 1471; George Frederic Handel, composer, London, 1759; Ernest Bevin, trade unionist, Foreign Secretary 1945-51, London, 1951; F.R. Leavis, literary critic, Cambridge, 1978; Simone de Beauvoir, writer, Paris, 1986.

The typhus vaccine was discovered by Dr Harry Plotz in New York, 1903.

The Highway Code was issued, 1931.

Birthdays today

Sir Patrick Brown, former civil servant, 59; Mr Roy Cameron, former Chief Constable, Dumfries and Galloway, 52; the Earl of Chichester, 55; Miss Julie Christie, actress, 59; Vice-Admiral Sir Geoffrey Dalton, 68; Miss Susan Davies, photographer, 66; Sir John Gielgud, OM, CH, actor, 95; Mr Gerry Gillman, trade unionist, 72; Mr Ivor Guest, ballet writer, 79; Mr C.J.M. Haines, former chief executive, Jockey Club, 60; Miss Eiddwen Harrhy, soprano, 50; Lord Hastings, 87; the Right Rev Dr David Hope, Archbishop of York, 59; Mr Paddy Hopkirk, former rally driver, 66; Mr Julian Lloyd Webber, cellist, 48; Miss L.E.M. Mackie, former Headmistress, City of London School for Girls, 73; Colonel Sir Robert Macrae, former Lord-Lieutenant of Orkney, 84; Baroness Masham of Ilton, 64; Mr P.G.A. Ramsay, former Controller, BBC Scotland, 73; Dr J.M. Roberts, former Warden, Merton College, Oxford, 71; the Ven R.H. Roberts, former Chaplain of the Fleet, 68; Mr David Skipper, former Headmaster, Merchant Taylors' School, 68; Mr Rod Steiger, actor, 74; Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean, trade unionist, 48; Sir Peter Thompson, former president, NFC, 71; Mr George Walker, former chief executive, Brent Walker Group, 70; Baroness Warnock, 75; Mr Paul Wilkinson, chairman, Ranks Hovis McDougall, 54.

PERSONAL COLUMN

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

TRADE; 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

The LORD is our God, and we are his people, the sheep he takes care of in his own pasture. Listen to God's voice today! Psalm 95:7 (CEV).

BIRTHS

BEAN - To Deborah (née Feaver) and Adrian. We are pleased to announce the birth of Emily Jane on 7th April 1999. A welcome arrival.

BOLS - On April 6th, to Kate (née Barnard) and Pete, a son, Frederick (Freddie) Joseph Peter, a brother for Samuel, Jessica and Harriet.

BRACKSTONE - On 5th April 1999, a sister to Alexander, a daughter to Richard and Jenny (née Crittenden), Annabel Rose, 8lbs 1oz.

COLEMAN - On April 6th at The Portland Hospital, to Marina (née Binos) and Colin, a daughter, Zoe Lya, a sister for Denira Sam. We are overjoyed.

CORNISH - On April 7th at The Portland Hospital, to Corrina and Mathew, a splendid baby boy, Samuel George.

CORTAZZI - On April 7th at The Portland Hospital, to Anne and William, a son, George William, a brother for Carter Christopher.

FORDHAM - On April 8th, to Philippa (née Podmore) and Simon, a son, Guy Michael William, a brother for Tamsin and Beatrice.

HOLTER-HOVIND - On 29th March, to Gillian (née Thorp) and Jens Helge, a son, Daniel Robert.

HORDERN - On 22nd March in Glasgow, to Iona and Mark, a daughter, Rebecca Margaret Rosemary, a sister for Charlie.

PERKINS - On 8th April 1999, to Frances (née Payne) and Andrew, a daughter, Alice Sarita, a sister for Isabel.

PRITCHARD - On March 31st 1999, to Janice (née Sansby) and William, a daughter, Chloe Louise, a sister for Emily.

SCOTT-KNIGHT - On April 12th in Lausanne, to Gemma (née de Lancey Walters) and Ben, a daughter, Madeline Elizabeth.

SHINE - On April 8th at The Portland Hospital, to Lesley-Ann (née Jones) and Gerard, a daughter, Bridie Rose Joy, a sister for Mia and Henry.

SWIRE - On April 7th at The Portland Hospital, to Fiona (née Donati) and Philip, a daughter, Serena Chiara Delia.

THOMPSON - Phoenix, on 7th April at UCH, London, a cherished daughter to Adam and Linda.

WESTON - On April 3rd 1999 to Rachel (neé Crabtree) and Michael, a son, Thomas Athol, a brother for Oliver and Kate.

WHITTICASE/SUN - On 13th April, in Hong Kong, to Rod and Kate, a son, Oliver John, a brother for Abigail.

DEATHS

ARNATT - Robert (Bob) of Ditchling, aged 92, peacefully on 9th April. Much loved husband of Jean and beloved brother of Joyce, Marion and John. Funeral, 21st April at 11.30am, Surrey and Sussex Crematorium, Balcombe Road, Crawley. Family flowers. Donations, if desired, to Salvation Army, c/o R.A. Brooks & Son, 35 Wivelsfield Road, Haywards Heath, RH16 4EN. Tel 01444-454391 for further details.

BAKER - On 10th April 1999, David John, remembered with love by his sons Christopher and Adrian, his mother Joan Biddell and all his family. Funeral Mass at 11am on Tuesday 20th April at St Etheldreda's Church, Ely Place, London EC1. Family flowers only. Donations in his memory to St Christopher's Hospice c/o A France & Son: tel 0171 405 4901.

BENSON - On April 12th aged 84 years, John Cuthbert of Belsay, Northumberland. Loving and very much loved husband of Doreen for 58 years. Private funeral. Thanksgiving Service at St Andrew's Church, Bolam on Thursday April 22nd at 12 noon. No flowers. Donations, if wished, to St Andrew's Church, c/o R. Carmichael, Townfoot, Belsay, NE20 0DX.

BIRKLE - John Richard, peacefully at home on April 11th 1999 after a short illness. Beloved friend and husband of Sarah and dearly loved father of Christopher, Lucinda and Caroline and grandpa of Timothy. Private cremation followed by a service of Thanksgiving at St Michael and All Angels, Uffington on Tuesday 20th April at 12 noon. No flowers. Donations for Lymphoma Research to Leukaemia Research Fund, c/o R.J. Scholes, St George's Street, Stamford, Lincs PE9 2BJ.

CAREY - Phyllis. Passed away 31st March 1999 aged 84 years. Funeral Service to take place on Thursday 15th April 1999 at Chichester Crematorium at 3.30 pm. Family flowers only please but donations if desired to N.S.P.C.C. may be sent c/o Reynolds Funeral Service, 31, High Street, Bognor Regis, West Sussex PO21 1RR. Tel: 01243 864745.

CHALK - Joan née Waterfield 26th October 1923 - 9th April 1999. Beloved Wife, Mother and Grandmother. Hospitalised and recovering from a stroke, was struck by another on Friday morning 9th April and died peacefully the same evening. A Service of Thanksgiving will be held on Wednesday 21st April 2 pm at St Mary the Virgin Church Westerham, followed by a cremation service at Tunbridge Wells at 4 pm. Family flowers only. Donations to Ward 9 Kent & Sussex Hospital for equipment - McMillan Nurses and Marie Curie.

COHEN - Ena May on 13th April quietly in her sleep after a short illness with devoted husband Joe as always by her side. Sadly missed by two children, five grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. Cremation at Golders Green Crematorium 10.45 on 15th April.

To place
death notices, acknowledgements
or notices please call
0171 680 6880

GILL - Diana. On 10th April suddenly at home. Adored wife of the late Stephen, much loved mother of John and Jane, mother-in-law of Janet and Alan and grandmother of Rupert and Charlotte. Cremation private, family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Imperial Cancer Research Fund c/o Jno. Steel & Son Ltd., Chesil House, 6 Chesil Street, Winchester. Service of Thanksgiving at 2.30 pm on Monday 19th April at St Lawrence Church, Alton.

GOLDSON - On April 11th (peacefully) of Middleton-St-George, Co. Durham, Edward Browne (Teddy) aged 85 years. Beloved husband of Jill, dearly loved father of Richard and Hilary, also a dear brother to Marjorie and the late Charles and Diana. Funeral Tuesday April 20th. Will friends please meet for service and committal 1 pm at St Laurence's Church, Middleton-St-George, prior to cremation. Family flowers only please. Donations if so desired to RNLI c/o Mr J. Dodds, 3 Tees Grange Avenue, Darlington DL3 8BL.

GRAHAM - John on 13th April 1999 aged 65 years. Beloved husband of Janet and dearly loved father of Amanda, the late Giles, Jamie and Gibson. Thanksgiving Service at St Margaret's Church, West Hoathly, West Sussex at 12 noon on Monday 19th April 1999. No flowers but donations to the Renal Service Fund, Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton c/o Cooper & Son, 11 New Town, Uckfield TN22 5DL, East Sussex tel: 01825 763763.

GREEN - Charles Patrick. RAF (retired) D.S.O., D.F.C. was born in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa in 1914. He died peacefully in Owen Sound, Canada on Saturday April 10th, 1999 after a long and eventful life in England, South Africa, and Canada. Paddy attended Harrow and Cambridge and was a member of the Bobsleigh team for England in the 1936 Olympic games. He served with the RAF in WWII. In 1947 he married Ruth Webster of Toronto and settled in South Africa. After a 26 year career with Anglo American Corporation Paddy emigrated to Canada in 1977. Paddy is predeceased by his wife Ruth (1981) and Grandson Claude (1974). Paddy will be missed by his children Carol, Chris and Anne and by his grandchildren Ashley, Frances, Joshua and Catherine. A memorial service will be held at St George's Anglican Church in Clarksburg, Ontario on Sunday afternoon April 18th 1999 at 2 o'clock. In lieu of flowers donations to the Humane Society would be appreciated. Funeral arrangements entrusted to the Breckenridge-Ashcroft Funeral Home, Owen Sound 001 519 376 2326.

HILL - Richard Bucknell died at home surrounded by his family on April 12th aged 84. Loving and dearly loved father of Serena, Julian and Sarah. Grandfather of Archie, Gabi and Arthur. A Service of Thanksgiving will take place in early May.

HILL - On April 6th aged 66, Julian Hill of Crawley Down, West Sussex. Funeral at All Saints Church, Crawley Down on Friday 16th April at 2 pm.

HOGG - Peacefully on Monday 12th April after a short illness Sir John Nicholson, beloved husband of the late Elisabeth (Kino), much loved father of Malcolm and Sue and dearly loved grandfather. Funeral and Thanksgiving Service at St John the Baptist, Shedfield at 12 noon on Tuesday 20th April. Family flowers only please. Further details from Thomas Pink (01489) 892640. A Memorial Service will be held later.

LEVY - Rebecca (née Ginsborg) on 9th April 1999 aged 76, greatly missed by her husband David, her children Mark and Harriet, her brother Bernard, all her family and her many friends.

LOVEDAY - Robert suddenly on April 11th aged 89 years. Former Schoolmaster at Ecclesfield and Raynes Park. Funeral Service at St Andrew's Church, Bradenham, Norfolk on Tuesday April 20th at 3pm. Enquiries to W.C. Littleproud & Son Funeral Directors, tel: (01760) 440268.

MALLENDER - On 12th April peacefully in Minehead Hospital, William John aged 85 years. Husband of the late Margaret Mary (Meg). The funeral service takes place on Wednesday 21st April at 12.30 pm at Taunton Deane Crematorium. Further enquiries Murrell and Dewar (01643) 702086.

McVITTIE - Morna (née Wilson), peacefully in Putney on 9th April, aged 92. Much loved widow of Bill and mother of Anne, Nancy and the late Richard. Funeral on Tuesday 20th April at 1.30pm at Putney Vale Crematorium. Family flowers only. Enquiries to Ashton Funeral Services, 0181 788 1790.

MURRAY - Sheila Mary, widow of Neil, on Sunday April 11th 1999 in hospital in Winchester, aged 91 years: loving mother of Gillian, Ian, Alison and Patricia, and much loved grandmother. Funeral in Romsey Abbey at 12 noon on Tuesday April 20th. Family flowers. Donations in her memory to the Kosovo Appeal. Enquiries to A.H. Chester, 122 The Hundred, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 8BY. (01794) 513393.

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or notices please call
0171 680 6880

PATTERSON - Dr. Henry Rea on April 10th peacefully in Glenfield Hospital. Dearly loved and loving husband of Beryl, much loved father of Clare, Sarah and Graham and adored grandfather of Jamie, Simon, Alex, Chris, Tom and Catherine. A dedicated GP already very sadly missed. Funeral Service at All Saints Church, Thurcaston on Wednesday April 21st at 12.30 pm. Family flowers only please but donations in memory of Henry if desired to R.N.L.I. c/o Ginns and Gutteridge, 51 Vaughan Way, Leicester LE1 4NR, tel: (0116) 2516117.

RENWICK - Dorothy Joyce aged 84 years, formerly Headmistress of Kidderminster High School died peacefully on April 7th 1999. Funeral Monday April 19th at St Philip and St James Church, Cheltenham at 11am. Cheques for memorial fund to "Kidderminster High School for Girls OGA", 80 Holmcroft Road, Kidderminster DY10 3AG.

ROBLEY DIXON - John (Rob) C.Eng.; B.Eng.; F.I.Mech.E.; F.I.M.; F.R.S.A. husband of Helen, father of Bruce, Joanne and Miles, grandfather of Harry and Georgina. Born 27th August 1925; died peacefully in hospital on 11th April 1999 after a short illness resolutely fought. Thanksgiving service in Worcester Cathedral at 2 pm on Tuesday 20th April. Family flowers only; donations if wished, via E. Hill & Son, Funeral Director, Pershore, Worcestershire WR10 1HZ, to Worcester Cathedral Appeal Trust or to the Macmillan Fund.

SCHRIRE - Sylvie on 12th April in Cape Town. Much loved and will be greatly missed by her daughters Sharon Godfrey and Gail Flesch, sons-in-law David and Michael and grandchildren Mark, Sarah, Dina and Daniel.

SCOPES - Jon Wilfred (Prof) born 20th November 1930, died 10th April 1999. Much loved and missed by Evelyn, Heather and Jennifer and so many. Funeral to be held on Friday 23rd April at 2.00 pm at St Mary's Parish Church, Hampton, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only, donations to Jon Scopes Neonatal Unit c/o G.S. Keates, 49 High Street, Hampton Hill, Middx. TW12 1NH.

SELVARAJAH - Ponnampalam (1928-1999) passed away peacefully and reached the feet of the Lord on 17th March 1999 at Whitefield, Bangalore, India. He was cremated at Prasanthi Nilayam, Puttarpathy, India, on the banks of the River Chitravathi. Beloved husband of Gnani, much loved father of Malkanthi, Preethilal, Ganesh, Ranjan, Sarasvi, Luxmi and Shanthi and very dear grandfather of Joseph, Charles and Thomas. An extraordinary and wonderful man, he will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. Memorial service 8th May 1999, Kingsway College, Sidmouth Street, London, contact Dr J Mohan (0181 402 7079) or Dr Ganeshanathan (01923 236419).

SHAPIRA - Norma, beloved wife of John, died peacefully last Saturday 10th April. Funeral will take place at Golders Green Crematorium, Hoop Lane, London NW11 at 3.30pm, Thursday 15th April. All that knew and loved her welcome. No flowers, instead donations welcome to North London Hospice.

STURROCK - Janet Macrobin, peacefully at home, surrounded by her loving family, on Friday 9th April, aged 83. Private family service at Holy Trinity, Teigh on Thursday 15th April, followed by burial at 3 pm at Market Overton Parish Church, for family and friends. Flowers, or donations for Macmillan Cancer Relief, may be sent c/o Fords F/D, 8 Church Street, Oakham (01572-722634). Memorial service in May, to be arranged.

THOMAS - Dr Ian Bruce FRCGP, died aged 72, peacefully at home in Cheltenham, on 9th April 1999, after a long illness bravely borne. The dearly loved and loving husband of Ann, the much loved and loving father of David, Paul and Jane and a proud grandfather. Sadly missed by them and his son- and daughters-in-law. Donations in lieu of flowers for Marie Curie and all enquiries may be sent to Selim Smith & Co., 74 Prestbury Road, Cheltenham, GL52 2DJ. Tel 01242 525383.

TJOLLE - Anthia Mary Florence "Chan to everybody". Always beautiful. Our Mum. Funeral Service will be held at St Thomas a Beckett Church, Widcombe, Bath, Friday 16th April at 11 am. Flowers welcomed, especially wild flowers, may be sent to Co-operative Funeral Services, Pulteney Road, Bath BA2 4HP.

TOMLINSON - Marjorie Clara (née Roodhouse) from Bilston of Leicester and Uppingham, wife of the late Bill, mother of Peter, Nicholas, Mary-Jane and Robert, grandmother of Jonathon, Sarah, Marc and Stephen. Died 10th April 1999 aged 92 years. R.I.P. The funeral service will be held at St Joseph's R.C., Oakham on Tuesday April 20th at 10am followed by interment at Gilroes Cemetery. Enquiries please to E. M. Dorman Funeral Director, Uppingham. Tel no 01572 823976.

TUOHY - On April 11th 1999 Frank Tuohy, writer, of a heart attack in Shepton Mallet Hospital. Funeral at St Mary the Virgin, Yarlington on Monday April 19th at 12.45 pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired for The Royal Literary Fund c/o Harold F. Miles, F.D. South Cadbury, BA22 7ES. (01963) 440367. Memorial Gathering in London to be announced later.

WALKER - Peacefully on Low Sunday Edward. Vicar of Great Amwell for 46 years. Much loved. Funeral on Tuesday 20th April at Great Amwell Church at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only.

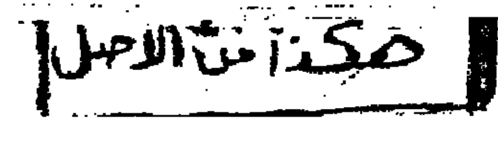
WATSON - Frank Sidney, of Oxford, died in Toronto, Canada, 23rd March, following a cancer operation. Frank leaves a widespread loving family and circle of friends.

WHISHAW - Ida Mary (Mollie) née Malden on Friday April 9th peacefully at Upper Mead Nursing Home, Henfield, in her 91st year. Widow of Harold Alexander Whishaw. Much loved sister, aunt, great-aunt and great-great-aunt. Funeral Service at Findon Crematorium, Worthing on Wednesday April 21st at 3pm. No flowers by her request. Enquiries to Radmall Funeral Services tel: (01273) 494577.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

BANTOCK - Ted April 14th 1986. "To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die". Agnes.

KIMITSUKA - Yoli. 24th March 1932 - 14th April 1992. Remembered with love by many friends for her life of art, friendship and great courage.



OBITUARIES

LORD STOTT

Lord Stott, Lord Advocate, 1964-67, and Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland, 1967-84, died on April 12 aged 89. He was born on December 22, 1909.

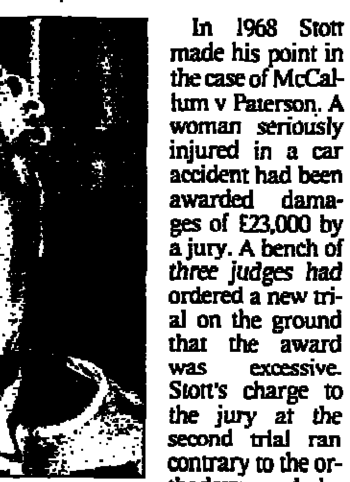
Lord Stott was a man of independent mind who was not afraid to take on the legal establishment. His diaries, published intermittently after his retirement, were an oddly entertaining mixture of the profound and the banal, of political reflection and mere gossip. They were far from flattering about many of his judicial colleagues, but cast as much light on his own character.

George Gordon Stott was the youngest son of the Rev Dr G. Gordon Stott, minister of Cramond, near Edinburgh. He was educated at Cramond School, Edinburgh Academy and Edinburgh University, where he was admitted to the Faculty of Advocates in 1936.

He became active in Labour politics, and as a conscientious objector when war broke out he was sent to work in agriculture. After his first posting, to a farm in Fife, he was appointed a milk recorder and toured the country, rising with the lark to log the yields.

He appeared free of charge before the tribunals on behalf of many other conscientious objectors and from 1939 to 1944 edited the *Edinburgh Clarion*, the journal of Edinburgh West Labour Party, which appeared with the subtitle "For socialism and peace". The sincerity of his pacifism was generally acknowledged and proved no hindrance to his career. He was a member of the Monopolies Commission, 1949-56, and took silk in 1950.

He soon acquired a certain celebrity in legal circles for his courage in confronting Lord Clyde, who had become Lord President in 1954 and was habitually rude and imperious. Stott's diary described him as "the worst judge that one could imagine" and deplored his habit of committing his "extempore" judgments to writing in advance and "concussing" his fellow judges into agreeing with him. Stott was scornful of those who passively did so. He had the temerity to appeal against many of Lord Clyde's judgments to the House of Lords, and was consistently successful.



When he himself became a judge in 1967, he continued to oppose Clyde's diktats, particularly over civil damages. In the Scottish courts these had been held far below the level in England. Some senior judges took a perverse pride in what they regarded as a tradition of honest poverty. Lord Stott perceived that not only was this inequitable, but it would ultimately bring the law of Scotland into disrepute by driving people to seek redress in the other jurisdiction.

In 1968 Stott made his point in the case of McCallum v Paterson. A woman seriously injured in a car accident had been awarded damages of £23,000 by a jury. A bench of three judges had ordered a new trial on the ground that the award was excessive. Stott's charge to the jury at the second trial ran contrary to the orthodoxy and he persuaded them to maintain the award at £22,000. This was again set aside by the First Division, and the pursuer eventually settled out of court for £10,000, a result Stott described as "most unfortunate".

He did not abandon his campaign, and when a similar case came before him the following year he was able to award a large sum of damages. Scottish damages now more or less conform to English standards.

In 1964 Stott had been appointed Lord Advocate in the Wilson Government. He did not find the duties of Scotland's chief law officer particularly onerous, but derived satirical pleasure from the foibles of the senior Labour politicians he encountered. Patrick Gordon Walker "waffled away as usual, assuring us with obvious truth that he had a completely open mind". He became disillusioned by Wilson's drift away from socialism and support for the Americans in Vietnam, and when a vacancy arose on the Bench he brought his brief career in politics to a close. But then in 1972 he found himself on front pages.

In a divorce case, Stott ruled against William Cordiner, a well-known criminal with a string of convictions. Cordiner had conducted his own case, and when the judgment went against him began to shout abusive threats at the judge and the entire court. Stott had him taken below in handcuffs and then sentenced him to three years' imprisonment for contempt, a decision denounced by Bernard Levin in this newspaper as "savage". Cordiner spent almost five months in prison before eventually being released on appeal.

After Stott's retirement in 1984, his diaries began to appear. *Lord Advocate's Diary* (1992) and *Judge's Diary* (1995) both reveal a relish for the culture of the vernacular (he had the occasional habit, in court, of breaking into broad Scots). A cerain parsimoniousness — on one occasion he records climbing a fence rather than paying for entry to a local gymkhana — contrasts with his acts of spontaneous generosity. He once sent a cheque for £500 out of his own pocket, to a woman who had lost her arm in a spin-dryer. He had represented her, but she had not, he felt, been given justice.

He is survived by his wife Nancy, whom he married in 1947, and by their son and one daughter.

SQUADRON LEADER H. B. 'MICKY' BELL-SYER

Squadron Leader H. B. "Micky" Bell-Syer, AFC, fighter and test pilot, died on March 12 aged 80. He was born on December 9, 1918.

BLINDED and badly burnt when his Hurricane was shot down over France in May 1940, Micky Bell-Syer made a remarkable recovery and was later able to undertake some of the most dangerous test-flying of the war. He was awarded his Air Force Cross in 1942 for top secret work he did at the Armament and Experimental Establishment at Boscombe Down.

This involved him and the handful of pilots selected for the work in taking off and landing with lethal cargoes of materials for a chemical weapons programme which, fortunately, never had to be activated in the struggle against Germany. The citation for Bell-Syer's AFC acknowledged "the taking of risks not required of any other pilots in the Service".

Herbert Benjamin Bell-Syer (who loathed his Christian names) joined the RAF from school in 1937. In May 1940 he was posted to No 73 Squadron, whose Hurricanes had been in France since September the previous year as part of the Advanced Air Striking Force. When the German Blitzkrieg began on May 10, No 73 was immediately in the thick of the action against the overwhelming tactical air power which supported the German advance into France and the Low Countries.

On May 24 Bell-Syer was flying one of four Hurricanes on patrol in the Cambrai area when they spotted a force of 30 Heinkel bombers supported by an equal number of Messerschmitt 110 fighters, heading to attack British and French troops on the ground. Undeterred by the odds, the Hurricanes wheeled into the attack and two of their number, including Bell-Syer's, were shot down. Baling out of his blazing aircraft, he was last



seen descending rapidly with a large rent in his parachute. He was posted as missing and was assumed to have been killed.

In fact, he had landed, if not safely, at least alive. And when on June 6, with the Dunkirk evacuation complete, one of his colleagues was sent to search for other downed 73 Squadron pilots in French hospitals that had not yet been overrun, he found Bell-Syer lying badly wounded and burnt in a hospital near Le Mans. With the signing of an Armistice in June, Bell-Syer was evacuated in a two-day grace period.

He was blinded, badly disfigured with burns to the face and hands, and had a severe shrapnel wound. A recovery complete enough to enable him to return to flying certainly could not have been predicted. But at Sir Archibald MacIndoe's famous burns unit at East Grinstead he eventually recovered his sight and, thanks to the surgeon's legendary skill, his handsome face was returned to normal.

Bell-Syer was enabled to return to flying early in 1941 and his exceptional skill as a pilot commended him to Boscombe Down, where he spent a good deal of the remainder of the war testing all sorts of aircraft. These ranged from biplanes to high-performance interceptor fighters and four-engined bombers.

He retired from the RAF as a squadron leader in 1947 and then went to Hawker Siddeley as a test pilot. By the time he retired from Hawker Siddeley 17 years later he had flown more than 80 different types of aircraft in his career.

In 1966 he joined the David McCall bloodstock agency, which was also the racing manager for Charles Englehart, a breeding and racing empire spanning Europe, South Africa and America. A great bon vivant, Bell-Syer was responsible for entertaining clients, something he did with great style.

Micky Bell-Syer married, in 1943, Elizabeth (Lady Burgh), divorced wife of the 6th Baron Burgh. This marriage was dissolved. He is survived by his companion of the last 18 years, Patricia Lady Foley.

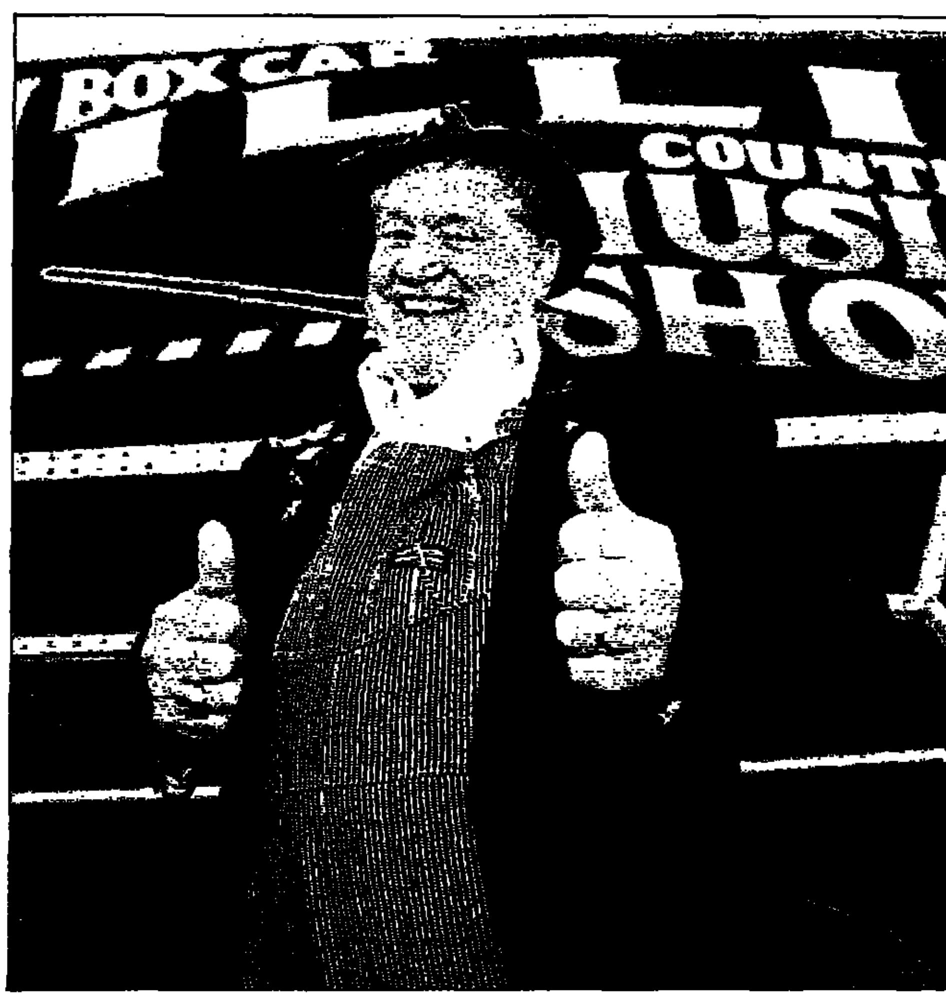
BOXCAR WILLIE

Boxcar Willie, country music singer, died of leukaemia on April 12 aged 67. He was born on September 1, 1931.

IN little more than a decade "the world's favourite hobo" made 15 gold and four platinum albums, with titles like *Boxcar Willie's Truck Driving Songs* and *King of the Freight Train*. He was perhaps best known for his version of *King of the Road*, but was happy to indulge every kind of sentiment, from *Achy Breaky Heart* to *How Great Thou Art* and *Jesus Makes House Calls*. He probably meant it all.

Lecil Travis Martin, born in Sterratt, near Dallas, Texas, was naturally keen to change his name and to run away from home. Known at first as Marty Martin, he often skipped school to "ride the rails", seeing America from the freight trains, and adopting their whistle as part of his repertoire. His father was a farmer who played the fiddle on his porch, and lent a hand on the railways — so he could sing *Daddy Was a Railroad Man* with pride.

He grew up admiring the genuine country singing of Jimmie Rodgers, Hank Williams and Lefty Frizzell, and in his teens he played guitar and sang in jamborees all over Texas. He recorded an album in the late 1950s: *Marty Martin Sings Country Music and Stuff Like That*. It was not enough to make him famous, though, and he was to spend 22 years in the US Air Force, clocking up a huge mileage as a flier. Later, he was loyal to the Services, and maintained his links through numerous organisations.



Boxcar Willie: outside his theatre in Branson, Missouri, in 1997

When he retired from the Air Force he turned back to music, and set about perfecting the hobo persona, with overalls, battered hat, worn-out shoes and two days' growth of beard. He wrote a song called *Boxcar Willie* and adopted the name for both an album and himself. At the age of 50 he won a Music City award for Most Promising Male Vocalist, and in 1982 his recording of Johnny Cash's *Bad News* (with train-whistle embellishment) was a success in the American country charts.

He never had a proper hit single, but the albums sold in large numbers, and he did especially well in Britain, notably at the Wembley country music festivals. He was styled a "world ambassador" for the Hobo Foundation.

In 1987 he bought a 900-seat theatre "with authentic charm" in Branson, Missouri, a little town with 3,700 residents, hundreds of country shows, fifty hotels and millions of visitors. This move to America's music show capital, set in the Ozark Mountains, put him in gentle competition with the Osmonds, Elvis imitators, Whispering Bill, the Lennon Brothers playing "canteen hits" and the Baldknobbers Jamboree (founded 1959), a musical comedy variety revue with sad-sack hillbilly clowns and good ole pickin' and a singin'.

The town may be a collective nostalgic fantasy about rural America, but it turns over money as surely and steadily as a Las Vegas fruit machine. Fans flock. Boxcar Willie performed six times a week for nine months of the year, as well as encouraging newcomers to take to the stage and instructing them on what would work best in that world of rhinestone-studded sincerity. It was quite a shock when fellow country singer David Allan Coe broke ranks to mock Boxcar Willie's name and train whistles.

Willie and his wife composed an enormous number of songs around a small number of themes, but he was most noted for renditions of old favourites such as *Wabash Cannonball*, and for his duets, with performers such as Carol Lee Cooper and Willie Nelson (who also has a theatre in Branson).

In 1990 he opened the Boxcar Willie Railroad and Airplane Museum, next door to his theatre and convenient for Ripley's Believe It or Not Museum, Ride the Ducks and the Hollywood Wax Museum.

He appeared in the film *Sweet Dreams* (1985), about Patsy Kline. His ambition was to raise the *Titanic*.

He is survived by his wife and their two daughters.

PROFESSOR FRANK LEES

Professor Frank Lees, engineer, died on March 18 aged 67. He was born on April 5, 1931.

FRANK LEES was a pioneer in the field of process safety, a technology devoted to the prevention of disasters at chemical plants and refineries. He was responsible for much of the present development of this relatively new subject, which was stimulated by the explosions at Flixborough and on the Piper Alpha oil platform.

Lees took up the subject while working at Loughborough University, and drew on his previous experience in the industry, particularly with ICI. Soon recognised for his outstanding ability, he was appointed by the Department of Trade and Industry to be technical assessor to the Piper Alpha disaster inquiry of 1988.

Francis Pearson Lees was born into a family with an engineering tradition; his father, grandfather and uncle had all held senior positions in the gas industry in the North East. He won an open scholarship in modern languages to Trinity College, Oxford, which he took up after 18 months' service in the Friends Ambulance Unit. He graduated with a first in 1954.

He went to work in the engineering industry and realised quickly that some scientific knowledge was necessary to further his career. His earlier scholastic brilliance was reconfirmed when he obtained good A levels in chemistry, physics and mathematics after one year of part-time study.

He joined ICI in 1956 as an experimental officer in the central research laboratory, and very quickly impressed his superiors. His work was involved with the adoption of computer systems for process control in the company. To advance further in the chemical industry required a chemical engineering background, and he took part-time classes in the degree course at West Ham.

After two years he was enrolled as a full-time student at Imperial College, where he graduated a year later with



first-class honours. He spent another six years with ICI before he felt the urge to pursue an academic career. He was appointed to a staff position at Loughborough in 1967, and stayed there for the rest of his working life, progressing rapidly to a professorial appointment.

His special interest in process safety stemmed from this time but was coloured by his industrial experience. He founded and built up an outstanding research group whose work became internationally known.

He will be best be remembered for his pioneering book *Loss Prevention in the Process Industries*, which has been translated into several languages, including Japanese and Chinese. He had just completed a revision for a second edition of this work when he was struck down by cancer three years ago.

His distinction was recognised by the awards he received from many technical and scientific bodies. In 1985 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering and, in 1998, he received an honorary DSc from Loughborough. But he was no narrow-minded specialist. He was widely read and had a wonderful gift of coming up with appropriate quotations on almost any occasion. His learning, sense of humour and modesty are well illustrated by his use in the preface to a new edition of his book of a quotation from Prince Bülow: "The man who never made a mistake never made anything."

Frank Lees is survived by his wife Elizabeth and by a son and a daughter.

ON THIS DAY

April 14, 1930

The Welsh coalfields are no stranger to disaster. This one, unlike Aberfan, caused no fatalities but overwhelmed the Powell Duffryn Colliery at New Tredegar under thousands of tons of earth and rock.

LANDSLIDE IN WALES
A MOVING MOUNTAIN

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

CARDIFF, April 13

A mountain landslide at New Tredegar in the early hours of yesterday morning has overwhelmed the Powell Duffryn Colliery situated at the base of the mountain and completely blocked the Great Western Railway branch line and the main road to Abertysswg. Most of the surface buildings at the colliery have been wrecked, the ironwork of the pit shaft has been twisted and bent as if by the hand of some monstrous giant, and a considerable length of retaining wall built to protect the colliery premises and the railway lies buried under the debris.

The colliery is irretrievably doomed and, although estimates of the damage are difficult and naturally vary, there is no doubt that it amounts to hundreds of thousands of pounds, for in addition to the buildings and pithead gear destroyed all the underground plant will have to be sacrificed. Fortunately, there has been no loss of life. As stated in *The Times*, the colliery was closed a few days ago for the ostensible reason that its working had become unremunerative, but there is no doubt that the decision was largely influenced by the increasing menace to the colliery of the moving mountain overlooking it. Only the officials and skeleton maintenance staff were retained, and the last of these had left the colliery about an hour before the landslide occurred at 2am on Saturday.

The mountain has been giving trouble for many years, and as far back as 1905 there was a considerable landslide which did serious damage to the colliery winding engine house and pit machinery. The trouble then, as now, occurred after a period of heavy rainfall, and was attributed in some quarters to the percolation of water into a bed of sand believed to run underneath these mountains for a distance of several miles. The movement, which affects both the Glamorgan and Monmouthshire sides of the Rhymney river, became pronounced a few days ago, and new fissures appeared in the mountain slopes, particularly on the Monmouthshire side.

The first intimations of the impending danger were given on Friday afternoon, when portions of detached earth and stone began to crash down the mountain side. Towards evening the movement accelerated at a pace of 3in a minute, culminating soon after midnight in a tremendous slide, which overwhelmed the road, the railway, and part of the colliery premises below.

THE TIMES TODAY

NEWS

More troops bound for Macedonia

■ Britain is sending another 2,000 troops, with tanks and artillery, to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, to be part of an international force for eventual deployment in Kosovo. Announcing the armoured battle group reinforcement in the Commons, Tony Blair said the extra troops were not being sent to invade Kosovo but to be ready to implement a peace settlement.......................................**Reports, pages 1, 4-8**

Prisoner releases could be stopped

■ The Government may be forced to consider halting prisoner releases if the Northern Ireland peace process has to be suspended. That would jeopardise the release of such figures as the Brighton bomber Patrick Magee and increase the likelihood of the Good Friday accord unravelling during a summer of contentious parades and European elections..............**Page 1**

Bank boss lasts a day

Mike O'Neill, a 52-year-old American banker and former US Marine taken on to revive the ailing fortunes of Barclays Bank, lasted just one day on the job before succumbing to ill health... **Pages 1, 3**

Snow mars cricket

Snow stopped play on the opening day of the county cricket season. Last year the opening fixtures of the cricket season saw scarecly any action, but it didn't snow until day two............**Page 1**

Railtrack condemned

Britain's railways are in a worse condition than they were under British Rail, according to a critical Government report on Railtrack's first four years.......**Page 2**

Tory confusion

William Hague shunned the national spotlight to launch his party's local election campaign at a school in true blue Tunbridge Wells in Kent — sparking confusion at Westminster over the Tories' declared aim of using the campaign to boost the party leader's public profile..............**Page 2**

Airbag warning urged

An airbag may have caused a woman's death in a head-on crash, an inquest was told. Jennifer Reichardt was said to have suffered a rare skull fracture when the inflating bag knocked her backwards into her seat's headrest ....**Page 3**

Blair's vision for NHS

Tony Blair has unveiled his vision of a revamped NHS, which would see doctors' surgeries open like high street shops and allow patients to drop in without an appointment, and medical advice for doctors and patients to be posted on the Internet..............**Page 9**

Woodhead battle

The former wife of Chris Woodhead emerged from the shadows of a left-wing campaign to destabilise him — to challenge the Prime Minister to dismiss him as Chief Inspector of Schools.........**Page 11**

Kvaerner jobs threat

The Government was holding crisis talks to find new buyers for a Scottish shipyard and other operations after Kvaerner announced a shake-up threatening 5,000 British jobs.............**Page 12**

Movie beers banned

Move-makers are threatening to ban all blockbuster screenings at the Metro cinema in Penistone, near Barnsley, unless the operators stop the introduction of intervals for beers at the bar..**Page 13**

Tunnel flames fanned

A decision by Italian officials to open a ventilation shaft when a fire broke out last month in the Mont Blanc tunnel linking France and Italy may have fanned the inferno, in which at least 41 people died, a preliminary report said..............**Page 14**

Dressmaker stitches up royal deal

■ In the front room of a tiny ground floor flat, the wedding dress of royal bride Sophie Rhys-Jones is being designed by a young designer who caters for an elite circle of Chelsea socialites. Samantha Shaw, however, is about to be catapulted on to the world stage after her position as maker of The Royal Dress was confirmed yesterday..**Page 9**

JEFF J. MITCHELL / REUTERS



Kvaerner is to sell its British engineering interests, including the Govan shipyard in Glasgow, putting thousands of jobs at risk. Page 12

BUSINESS

Supermarket sweep: Tesco revealed trading data for last year which reveals that it is streaking away from Sainsbury's. But Tesco's opening hours have been criticised by the Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern....................................**Page23**

Net head: A 35-year-old accountant has been made head of Freeserve, the Internet arm of Dixons, the electrical retailer. John Pluthero will become chief executive of a business which Dixons is looking at making a separate company...........**Page 23**

Markets: The FTSE 100 index broke new ground, finishing at a record 6513, up 71 points on the day. The pound finished marginally up against the dollar on $1.6167, while the euro slid about a third of penny to 66.75p......................**Pages 23, 26**

SPORT

Football: Emmanuel Petit has pledged his immediate future to Arsenal after earlier reports that he would quit England...........**Page 44**

Cricket: Snow greeted the arrival of the domestic cricket season, with Durham's Riverside ground blanketed as play was abandoned without a ball bowled...............**Page 44**

Midweek view: Simon Barnes provokes debate with the argument that sport can be harmful to your health, both in the physical and mental sense......................**Page 42**

Athletics: David Powell continues his countdown to the London Marathon on Sunday..................**Page 38**

Tennis: Britons Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski have confirmed their entries for the Stella Artois Championships in June.....**Page 42**

ARTS

Pimm's, anyone? The new general director at Glyndebourne, Nicholas Snowman, tells Richard Morrison about his radical plans for the next ten years in Sussex.....**Page 35**

Rising stars: It is three for the price of one this week as the musicians Rebecca, Katharine and Helena Wood get set to unite to share the stage at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in London.............................**Page 35**

Absolutely abstract: The Royal Academy celebrates the headlong rush into abstraction of Vasily Kandinsky, whose passion and energy liberated Western art.........**Page 36**

Strange fruit: The Cranberries launch their comeback campaign with a low-key concert in Shepherds Bush; plus Echo and the Bunnymen in Norwich............**Page 37**

Saving tips: How to remortgage and save money; why it could pay to copy your children's financial habits; the best way to provide for a wrinkle-free retirement...... **Page 15**

Passing on skills: The theory of memes — ideas or skills that we copy — suggests that imitation has a role in evolution..........................**Page 16**

Lauren's story: Cherie Booth's sister Lauren denies that her activities have strained her links with the Blairs.................................**Page 17**

Joanna Coles: "In London nothing would have persuaded me to attend a breakfast lecture. But here the hours from 6am to 9am are time aching to be filled"............**Page 17**

Dirty work: Householders living on contaminated land are angry that they may have to pay for clean-up costs..**Page 32**

On the face of things, it is easy to dismiss Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji's current visit to Washington as a failure because the big prize, China's accession to the World Trade Organisation, has eluded him. This, of course, is regrettable. But has Mr Zhu really walked away empty-handed? Not really — if one looks at the other achievements of his trip, the Chinese leader has scored.

The Straits Times, Singapore

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **FILMS**

Rupert Everett, left, plays Lord Goring in Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband*

■ **BOOKS**

Is Michael Eisner of Disney the most important Hollywood mogul since Jack Warner sold his studio?

RADIO & TV

Preview: Brenda Blethyn and Julie Walters star in the heart-warming drama *Girls' Night*. (ITV, 9pm) **Review:** Peter Barnard marvels at the achievement of the *Breitling Orbiter 3* balloonists...........**Pages 42, 43**

OPINION

Clear targets

The longer the campaign lasts, the grimmer will be its impact on the Yugoslav economy............**Page 19**

On probation

Last August Jack Straw promised to toughen up probation. His retreat on other proposals raises questions as to how tough his shake-up of probation will be...........**Page 19**

A breath of fresh aria

Glyndebourne's new general director takes exciting risks — not least at the box office..................**Page 19**

COLUMNS

PETER RIDDELL

The ends are broadly agreed, but the means remain cloudy. Backing at Westminster for the Nato military action in Kosovo has increased since before Easter...............**Page 8**

SIMON JENKINS

Having pulled Mr Milosevic on to the punch, the coherent policy would at least be to punch him properly — a policy to which gung-ho American opinion appears to be dragging Britain. But such a policy must be mad.......................**Page 18**

ROGER SCRUTON

The English will, instead, set out in search of their civilisation — the continuous tradition of which gives them a claim to nationhood equal to that of the Scots and Serbs. And they will discover that they have forgotten it................................**Page 18**

ALAN COREN

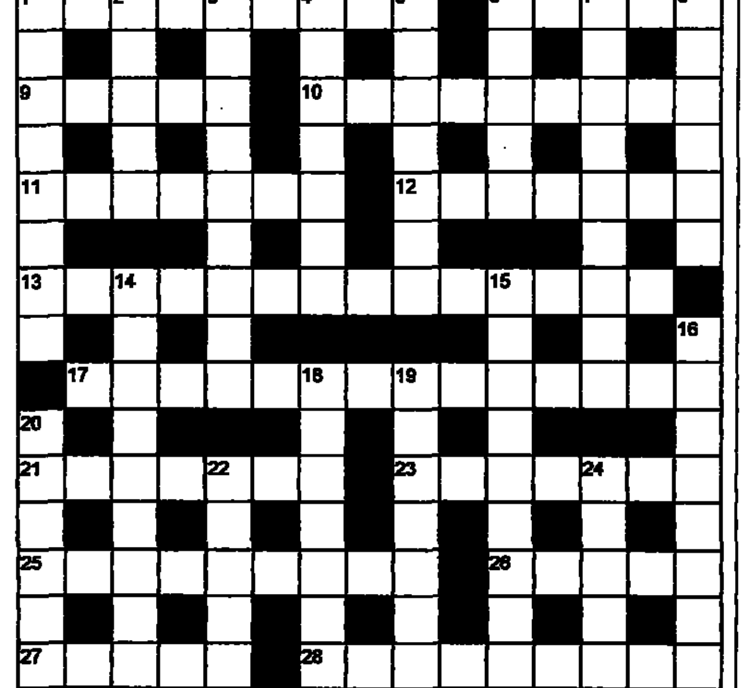
The Palace has granted me exclusive access to their fat dossier on the first couple to pass the rigorous selection process.................**Page 18**

OBITUARIES

Lord Stott, Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland 1967-84; **Squadron Leader H. B. "Micky" Bell-Syer**, fighter pilot; **Boxcar Willie**, country music singer; **Professor Frank Lees**, engineer..**Page 21**

Criticism of the Nato campaign: John Diamond's battle with cancer: power of the judiciary; civil legal aid; last British battle; cost of music lessons; birdwatching........**Page 19**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,077



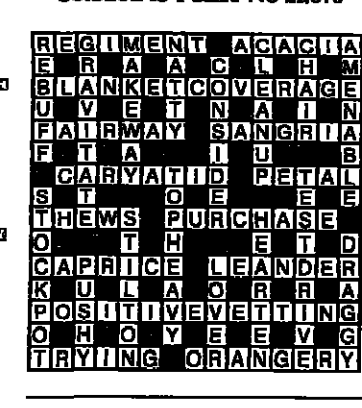
ACROSS

1 Joined prisoner at end of sentence outside prison (9).
6 The Black Watch? (5).
9 Jazz work shown by broadcaster half-heartedly (5).
10 Noticing bishop in old boots, say (9).
11 Former partner's generous, for instance (7).
12 Tragic princess in song bound to be rejected (7).
13 Devastation of land enabled everyone to see ultimate issue (2-3,3,3-3).
17 Busy doctor helped with his cases (8,6).
21 Shake sauce to go on unopened bun (7).
23 Fellow sent back by boss in plant (7).
25 Some junk – the amount found in sewer? (9).
26 Clothing in demand in outskirts of Delhi? (5).
27 Wheat that's part of problem merchants revealed (5).
28 Intend to reform after one finally is put in it? (9).

DOWN

1 Like fine construction, easily damaged by falling under horse and trap (8).
2 Point to one area that was formerly part of Africa (5).
3 Disliked university, new one, in London area (9).
4 I must be held up in a vessel as far away as possible (7).
5 Catch, dashed upset, seen wriggling about (7).
6 Composer's sentence court quashed (5).
7 Foreign money invested in glamorous and ambitious contract (5,4).
8 Husband subsequently admitted making fuss (6).
14 A posh name involved with the top club (9).
15 Feeling upset, left old colony, predicting ruin (4-5).
16 European schoolboys finally moved (8).
18 Accomplished FBI agent scoffed too much (7).
19 People initially going to suffer under minor potentate (7).
20 Ask bridge player about one opponent in game of cards (6).
22 Drawing instrument found among dividers? (5).
24 Language from officer disheartened one (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 21,076



Times Two Crossword, page 44

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 6.08 am

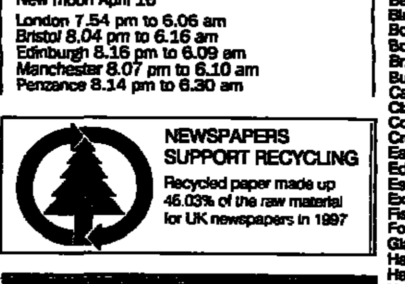
Sun sets: 7.54 pm

Moon sets: 5.39 pm

Moon rises: 5.46 am

New moon April 16

London 7.54 pm to 6.06 am
Bristol 8.04 pm to 6.16 am
Edinburgh 8.16 pm to 6.09 am
Manchester 8.07 pm to 6.10 am
Penzance 8.14 pm to 6.30 am



FREE BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS



FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will have a few sunny spells but there will be prolonged heavy showers, most frequent this afternoon, many of them of hail, sleet and possibly snow. The best chance of drier and brighter weather will be on southwestern coasts. Gales in northwest Scotland, with frequent wintry showers, will make it feel especially cold. The rest of Scotland will also be windy with showers or longer spells of rain and some snow on the mountains. Sheltered southern areas will, however, see some sunny spells.

☐ **Tonight:** evening showers will quickly die out across much of England and Wales to leave another cold night with long, clear spells. Sheltered parts of Scotland will also have some clear skies, and temperatures will drop below freezing before further wintry showers spread southwards into east and northeast England by morning.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England:** starting cold but generally dry and bright before cloud builds bringing heavy and thundery showers, many of them of hail, sleet or perhaps snow. A moderate west to northwest wind. Max temp 8C (46F).

☐ **Midlands, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man:** cold with heavy showers, some thundery with hail, sleet or snow mixed in. A freshening northwest wind. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **E England, Central N, NE England:** morning sunshine will be replaced by prolonged showers, some of them wintry. A fresh west to northwesterly wind. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Channel Islands, SW England, S Wales:** sunny spells but also a few showers, the odd one heavy and wintry. A freshening northwest wind. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** sunny breaks but some showers and longer periods of rain likely with snow on the hills. A fresh north to northwest wind. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, NW Scotland:** cold, and windy with sunny spells and heavy, wintry showers. A strong northwest wind; gales in north. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **Northern Ireland:** early sunny spells then turning showery with many of the showers heavy and wintry. A freshening northwest wind. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** dry and bright then showers, heavy at times. Wind northwest light, fresh later. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Outlook:** tomorrow and Friday will remain cold and unsettled with only limited sunny spells and further sharp showers for most places, the showers falling as sleet or snow over the hills. The wind should, however, gradually ease.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm. b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle, ds=dust storm; du=dull, f=fair; fg=fog. g=gales; h=hail, r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet, s=sun; t=thunder

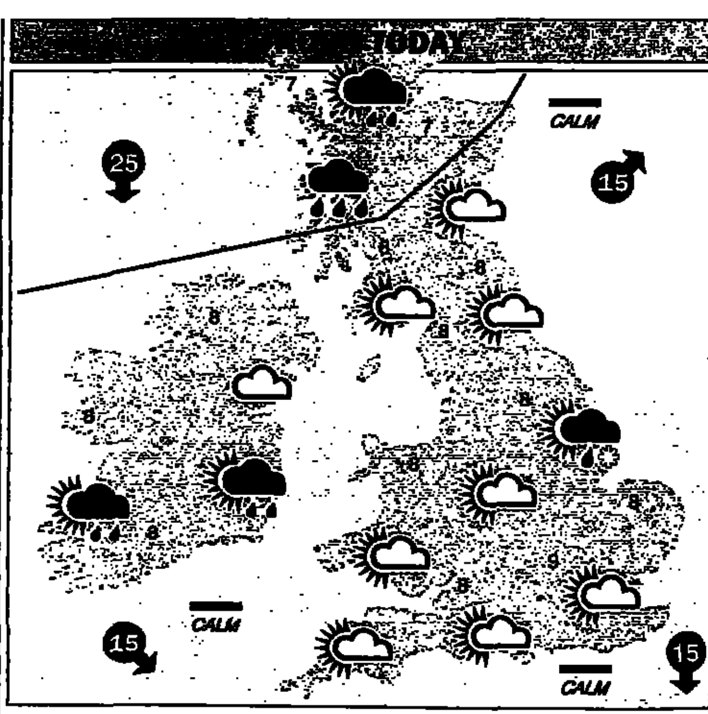
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	5.2	0.02	4	39	sn	Leeds	1.6	0.20	7	45	h
Anglesey	7.3	0.04	8	46	s	Lerwick	7.0	0.08	4	39	sn
Aspatria	3.2	0.08	6	43	sl	Leuchars	5.4	0.05	6	43	sl
Aviemore	5.2	0.12	3	37	sn	Littlehampton	9.1	0.09	10	50	sh
Belfast	6.0	0.23	7	45	h	London	6.1	0.15	9	48	t
Birmingham	5.7	0.15	7	45	sh	Lowestoft	4.7	0.28	9	48	sl
Bognor R	9.9	0.02	11	52	h	Manchester	3.3	0.20	7	45	t
Bournemth	8.6	0.01	10	50	h	Morecambe	3.8	0.10	7	45	sl
Bristol	7.0	0.05	9	48	sh	Newcastle	0.7	0.37	4	39	sn
Buxton	0.8	0.53	3	37	sn	Newquay	7.0	0.06	9	48	sh
Cardiff	7.9	0.01	9	48	sh	Norwich	4.9	0.30	8	46	h
Clacton	6.1	0.43	8	46	sh	Oxford	9.8	0.05	9	48	sh
Colwyn Bay	2.2	0.10	7	45	sh	Penzance	7.3	0.01	13	55	s
Cromer	4.6	0.08	9	48	sh	Poole	2.3	-	12	54	c
Eastbourne	9.1	0.07	11	52	h	Prestatyn	2.3	0.13	8	46	sl
Edinburgh	3.4	0.21	7	45	sn	Ross on Wye	8.8	0.15	8	46	h
Eskdalemuir	3.9	0.37	4	39	sn	Saunton Sands	6.2	0.04	10	50	s
Exmouth	8.3	0.09	10	50	s	Scarborough	-	0.38	9	48	sl
Fishguard	6.2	0.02	7	45	sh	Shrewsbury	6.5	0.12	8	46	sh
Folkestone	9.0	0.44	11	52	t	Skegness	3.0	0.19	7	45	sl
Glasgow	6.6	0.14	8	46	r	Southend	7.2	0.33	9	48	t
Hastings	8.0	0.15	11	52	h	Southsea	8.3	0.11	11	52	h
Hayling I.	10.0	0.04	10	50	h	Stornoway	9.7	0.08	4	39	sn
Herne Bay	5.3	0.24	12	54	sh	Swanage	8.8	0.11	11	52	sh
Hunstanton	2.7	0.17	7	45	t	Teignmouth	7.0	0.24	13	55	sh
Isle of Man	8.8	0.06	8	46	sh	Tenby	8.4	0.01	9	48	s
Isle of Wight	9.4	0.03	10	50	h	Tiree	8.2	0.12	6	43	sh
Jersey	9.9	0.03	12	54	h	Torquay	11.2	0.04	12	54	s
Kinloss	5.2	0.04	5	41	sn	Weymouth	8.5	0.01	10	50	sh

ABROAD

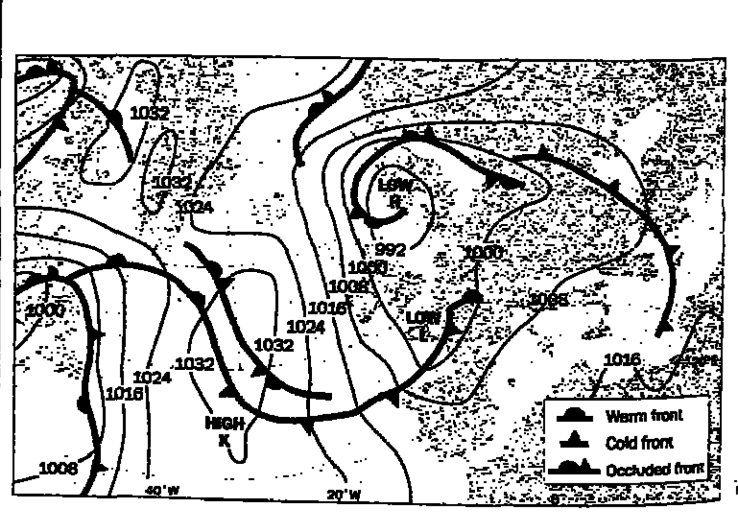
	C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	14	57	c	Cologne	9	48	c	Madrid	18	64	s	Rome	15	59	f
Akrotiri	19	66	s	C'phagn	7	45	f	Majorca	18	64	s	Salzburg	12	54	f
Alex'dria	20	68	f	Corfu	16	61	f	Malaga	20	68	s	S Frisco	12	54	s
Algiers	23	73	s	Dublin	10	50	r	Malta	18	64	f	Santiago	24	75	s
Amst'dm	10	50	c	Dubrovnik	14	57	f	Melbourne	19	66	f	S Paulo	X		
Athens	19	66	s	Faro	27	81	s	Mexico C	23	73	s	Seoul	11	52	r
Bahrain	28	82	s	Florence	15	59	f	Miami	31	88	s	Singapore	33	91	f
Bangkok	33	91	f	Frankfurt	7	45	r	Milan	17	63	f	Stockholm	6	43	f
Barbados	29	84	f	Funchal	21	70	s	Montreal	9	48	s	Strasb'rg	9	48	r
Barcelona	17	63	s	Geneva	7	45	r	Moscow	11	52	c	Sydney	21	70	s
Beijing	16	61	f	Gibraltar	20	68	s	Munich	11	52	s	Tangier	23	73	s
Beirut	18	64	f	Helsinki	5	41	c	Nairobi	23	73	f	Tel Aviv	21	70	c
Belgrade	15	59	f	Hong K	25	77	f	Naples	15	59	f	Tenerife	25	77	s
Berlin	12	54	f	Innsbruck	15	59	s	N Delhi	36	97	s	Tokyo	19	66	c
Bermuda	21	70	r	Istanbul	16	61	f	N York	11	52	s	Toronto	9	48	s
Biarritz	13	55	r	Jeddah	35	95	s	Nice	16	61	f	Tunis	21	70	t
Bordeaux	12	54	r	Jo'burg	19	66	f	Oslo	3	37	sh	Valencia	23	73	s
Brussels	11	52	h	L Palmas	22	72	s	Paris	11	52	f	Vanc'ver	8	46	c
Budapest	15	59	f	Le Tquet	11	52	f	Perth	33	91	s	Venice	14	57	f
B Aires	19	66	c	Lisbon	19	66	s	Prague	11	52	c	Vienna	13	55	c
Cairo	25	77	s	Locarno	13	55	f	Reykjavik	-4	25	f	Warsaw	9	48	c
Cape Tn	35	95	s	L Angeles	13	55	s	Rhodes	18	64	f	Wash'ton	11	52	f
Chicago	11	52	s	Luxembg	6	43	r	Rio de J	23	73	s	Wel'ngton	15	59	X
Ch'church	14	57	X	Luxor	35	95	s	Riyadh	32	90	s	Zurich	9	48	f

Temperatures at midday local time on Monday. X = not available

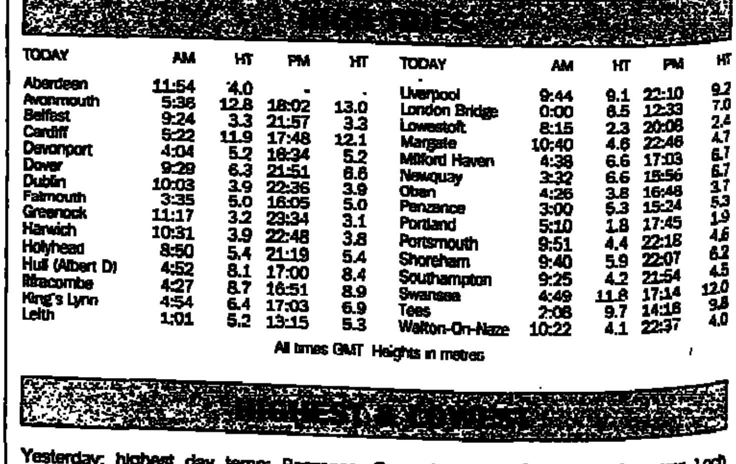
WEATHER TODAY



Changes to the chart below from noon: lows H and L will drift slowly north; high K will remain slow-moving in mid-Atlantic



HIGH TIDES



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	11:54	4.0	-	-	Liverpool	9:44	9.1	22:10	9.2
Avonmouth	5:36	12.8	18:02	13.0	London Bridge	0:00	6.5	12:33	7.0
Belfast	9:24	3.3	21:57	3.3	Lowestoft	8:15	2.3	20:08	2.4
Cardiff	5:22	11.9	17:48	12.1	Margate	10:40	4.6	22:46	4.7
Devonport	4:04	5.2	16:34	5.2	Milford Haven	4:38	6.6	17:03	6.7
Dover	9:29	6.3	21:51	6.6	Newquay	3:32	6.6	15:56	6.7
Dublin	10:03	3.9	22:36	3.9	Oban	4:26	3.8	16:48	3.7
Falmouth	3:35	5.0	16:05	5.0	Penzance	3:00	5.3	15:24	5.3
Greenock	11:17	3.2	23:34	3.1	Portland	5:10	1.8	17:45	1.9
Harwich	10:31	3.9	22:48	3.8	Portsmouth	9:51	4.4	22:18	4.6
Holyhead	8:50	5.4	21:19	5.4	Shoreham	9:40	5.9	22:07	6.2
Hull (Albert D)	4:52	8.1	17:00	8.4	Southampton	9:25	4.2	21:54	4.5
Ilfracombe	4:27	8.7	16:51	8.9	Swansea	4:49	11.8	17:14	12.0
King's Lynn	4:54	6.4	17:03	6.9	Tees	2:08	9.7	14:18	9.8
Leith	1:01	5.2	13:15	5.3	Walton-On-Naze	10:22	4.1	22:37	4.0

All times GMT Heights in metres

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: highest day temp: Penzance, Cornwall, 13C (55F), lowest day max: Loch Glascarnoch, Highland, 2C (36F); highest rainfall: Buxton, Derbyshire, 0.53ins; highest sunshine: Torquay, Devon, 11.2 hrs.



Losing the old spark

Arts, page 37

BUSINESS • ARTS • PROPERTY • SPORT • TELEVISION

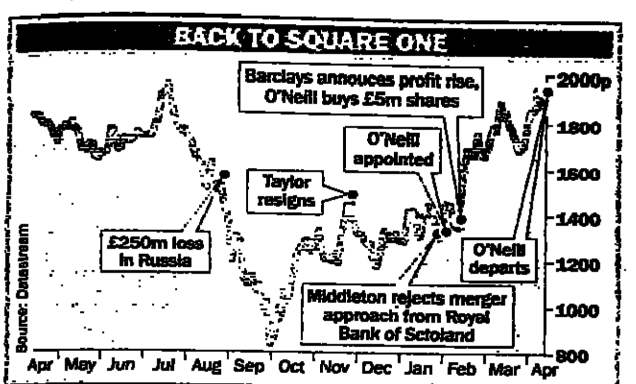
THE TIMES 2

The replay neither wanted

Sport, page 44

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft WEDNESDAY APRIL 14 1999

Barclays starts search again as O'Neill goes



BY CAROLINE MERRELL
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE shock departure of Mike O'Neill, Barclays chief executive, after just 18 days in the post, leaves Sir Peter Middleton, the bank's group chief executive, once again desperately seeking a replacement for Martin Taylor, who quit in November last year, with a £1.5 million payoff.

Shares in Barclays initially fell 49p on the news of Mr O'Neill's resignation, but ended trading up 46p on the day at 1919p. The market is taking the view that Barclays without O'Neill could become a takeover target.

After the emergence of the heart complaint over which he resigned, coming after a bout of influenza, Mr O'Neill actually only spent one day in the office in London — and that was the day he resigned.

Sir Peter said yesterday that he intended to go back to the shortlist he had drawn up before appointing Mr O'Neill. He did not rule out an internal appointment or the appointment of another American banker. He said that all the executive directors had been interviewed for the position. Those considered include Christopher Lendrum, chief executive of corporate banking, and John Varley, chief executive of retail services.

Sir Peter promised that the appointment would be made swiftly. He said: "We have got to take a quick decision. This is different to when Martin went. All the businesses have been doing very well. There have not been any board disputes." Ruling himself out, he added: "It has never been my ambition to do this job."

Sir Peter also confirmed that Andrew Buxton, who is to stand down as chairman, following the annual meeting on April 23, is to stay on contract to the Barclays Middle Eastern division on an annual salary of £120,000 for 60 days of consultancy a year.

He also said that he was continuing with plans to appoint a finance director, although Oliver Stocken, who was due to step down at the AGM would continue for the time being.

Earlier this year, it was revealed that Sir Peter had rejected a merger with Royal Bank of Scotland, headed by Sir George Mathewson. Sir Peter admitted that the bank had been in talks with a number of different financial institutions about deals.

Commentary, page 25

Business Today



Janet Bush says that euro woes should come as no surprise

Page 27

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	6513.1	(+71.9)
Yield	2.12%	
FTSE All Share	2986.26	(+29.90)
Nikkei	16715.16	(+207.76)
New York:		
Dow Jones	10373.08	(+33.57)*
S&P Composite	1351.67	(-6.97)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	4[illegible]%*	(4[illegible]%)
Long bond	96[illegible]*	(97[illegible])
Yield	5.49%*	(5.45%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	5[illegible]%	(5[illegible]%)
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	117.98	(118.27)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6143*	(1.6125)
London:		
$	1.6167	(1.6148)
€	1.4983	(1.4886)
SFr	2.4025	(2.3865)
Yen	194.30	(193.99)
£ Index	103.2	(102.7)

DOLLAR

London:		
€	1.0781*	(1.0814)
SFr	1.4900*	(1.4850)
Yen	120.05*	(120.22)
$ index	108.3	(108.2)

Tokyo close Yen 120.39

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jun)	$15.00	($14.75)

GOLD

London close	$283.85	($283.55)

* denotes midday trading prices

Exchange rates .... Page 24

Shares rise to a record despite Kosovo worries

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE stock market yesterday shook off concern about the intensifying conflict in Kosovo to hit a record closing high and take its rise this year past 10 per cent.

European markets also gained, playing down reports that Serb troops had crossed into Albania and shrugging off rising criticism of the European Central Bank's performance.

Dresdner Bank claimed that last week's ECB rate cut had undermined the fledgling central bank's credibility and had increased the chance of a rise in European rates by the end of the year.

The markets, however, were again encouraged by a bullish mood on Wall Street, where benign economic data helped to ease lingering concern that the US economy may overheat.

US consumer prices rose by 0.2 per cent in March, only slightly above the 0.1 per cent recorded in February. Consumer sales growth also eased back to a modest 0.2 per cent. The data helped push the Dow Jones industrials average, which scored a record close on Monday, gently higher in early trade.

In London the FTSE 100 index closed up 71.9 points at 6,513.1, just short of an all-time peak of 6,519.5 set earlier in the day. The London market has now risen by 10.7 per cent in 1999.

Shares in Paris climbed to a new high for 1999, and German shares rose 1.1 per cent as investors retained a positive view of last week's half-point ECB rate cut.

However, Klaus Friedrich, Dresdner Bank's chief economist, yesterday made a stinging attack on the ECB rate cut, claiming that it had only increased economic uncertainty in the euro area.

Herr Friedrich said that the unexpectedly big cut belied the ECB's commitment to market transparency. It had also raised doubt about whether the ECB is committed to a Bundesbank-style policy of monetary stability or whether it has opted for the more activist stance of the US Federal Reserve or the Bank of England.

"The possible result of this month's interest rate cut could be that the ECB has to raise rates again sooner than it would otherwise." Herr Friedrich said. "This is the danger of following an activist policy."

Euro woes, page 27

Tesco's performance leaves rivals trailing

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM
RETAIL CORRESPONDENT

TESCO, the largest supermarket group in Britain, revealed yesterday that it is streaking further ahead of J Sainsbury, its nearest rival, with an increase in market share to 15.8 per cent from 15.2 per cent.

Tesco, which reported a £1 billion rise in sales to £18.5 billion for last year, also revealed plans to step up its expansion at home and abroad with investments of £1.3 billion. The move will create 20,000 jobs, half of them overseas.

Terry Leahy, chief executive, said that the recent price-cutting campaign had boosted Tesco's sales, which were up 4 per cent like-for-like in the year as a whole. He said that in the past few weeks this had increased to nearer 5 per cent.

The industry average is about 1.5 per cent. "They are doing a lot better than their rivals, and the figures should show a big contrast with Sainsbury's," one analyst said.

Tesco's underlying pre-tax profit rose from £817 million to £881 million. A number of analysts increased their forecasts for current-year profit from about £942 million to £960 million. The company will pay a final dividend of 2.87p, giving a total of 4.12p (3.87p).

J Sainsbury is due to report third-quarter trading figures on Friday and is also set to cut up to 350 head office jobs. Already this week it has announced the closure of its Savacentre headquarters, with the loss of more than 200 jobs. Analysts' expectations are that Sainsbury's recent like-for-like sales will be up not much more than 1 per cent.

Tesco also revealed that it plans to increase the number of stores that will deliver to customers ordering via the Internet from 11 to 100. Tesco's free Internet access business has attracted 200,000 subscribers with 10,000 new additions per week.

Some £450 million of Tesco's capital expenditure budget this year will be spent overseas. It currently operates eight hypermarkets in Eastern Europe and is set to open ten more this year.

In the Far East, three more hypermarkets are set to open in Thailand and two in South Korea, where it has recently agreed a joint venture with Samsung. Tesco said yesterday [illegible] set to move into the Taiwanese and Malaysian markets. In the UK it plans to open about 25 more stores, taking its total to 600.

Tesco Personal Finance, its joint venture with Royal Bank of Scotland, should break even by the end of the current year, the company said.

Mr Leahy said that he thought the recent decision to refer the supermarkets sector to the Competition Commission was "unfortunate". He added: "I'm sure they'll see in the end that this is a very competitive business." The commission has already written to Tesco, and meetings are expected to start soon.

Tempus, page 26

THE Irish Prime Minister has attacked plans by Tesco to open an all-year, 24-hour supermarket in Dublin (Audrey Magee writes). Bertie Ahern described the plan as "not something that the public are demanding", adding: "There is a Christmas requirement as obviously people are busy, but to do that on a year-round basis is just pressing the staff and the workers to an unnecessary degree." Mr Ahern's intervention will be a blow to Tesco which is struggling to gain acceptance in the Irish Republic despite becoming the second-largest chain after a £630 million acquisition two years ago. In January, the Irish director of consumer affairs launched an inquiry into claims of overcharging.

ADRIAN SHERRATT

Bearing fruit: Terry Leahy, chief executive of Tesco, which has seen its share of the market increase to 15.8 per cent

Findus frozen out by Nestle

BY CARL MORTISHED

NESTLE is in discussions to sell Findus, its frozen food brand to EQT Scandinavia, a buyout fund linked to the Wallenberg business empire.

The Swiss multinational wants to shed the commodity end of its frozen food business in Europe in order to concentrate on more profitable prepared foods products. Nestlé also revealed plans to buy a Spanish prepared frozen food and snacks business, jointly with Danone, the French foods group.

A spokesman for Nestlé said that the Findus deal had two prongs — the shedding of low-margin commodity frozen foods and the exiting from the brand. He said that Nestlé wanted to focus on higher added-value products than frozen vegetables and indicated the brand had insufficient market clout.

The businesses to be sold have sales of SwFr1 billion (£418 million). Analysts reckoned that Nestlé would fail to secure a price as high as sales because of the business's weak margins; a price of SwFr600-700 million is being mooted.

Nestlé has been distancing itself from the Findus brand; the Swiss group has failed to achieve much success in widening the appeal of Findus beyond France and Scandinavia, since it was acquired in the 1960s.

In the UK, Findus products are being rebranded as Crosse & Blackwell. Nestlé has a frozen food plant at Longbarton, near Newcastle, which employs 800 people. The company would not say whether it would be affected by the disposal.

One 2 One forced to rethink pre-pay tariffs

BY CHRIS AYRES

ONE 2 ONE, Britain's smallest mobile phone company, is to radically reorganise its tariff structures to improve the profitability of its so-called "pre-pay" customers.

The announcement was made as the company revealed that pre-pay customers — who buy call vouchers instead of signing long-term contracts — spend just £200 a year, compared with the £480 a year spent by contract customers. However, One 2 One said that pre-pay customers were cheaper to acquire. The tariff shakeup comes amid turmoil for One 2 One, whose owners, Cable & Wireless and MediaOne, are considering a trade sale or a float of the company.

One 2 One's new tariffs — to be launched on April 29, with an £8 million advertising campaign — will see pre-pay call prices cut from 40p a minute to 10p or 2p a minute, depending on whether calls are made during peak time or off-peak time. Prices will be the same for national and local calls.

However, the new pre-pay tariffs will include a "daily charge", starting at 50p, which means that pre-pay customers will effectively pay the same in monthly line rental as contract customers. For the time being, One 2 One will continue to offer its 40p-a-minute pre-pay service without daily charges.

Tim Samples, managing director, said: "This is a new pre-pay approach. We are simplifying tariffs and reducing the cost of calling. Three-and-a-half million people have gone to pre-pay so far. What we want to do is grow that market and increase our share of it."

He added that he wanted to persuade One 2 One customers to use their mobile phones instead of their fixed-line BT phones, and said there was "no evidence" to suggest mobile handsets were a health threat.

One 2 One will also offer its contract customers 10p and 2p-a-minute call charges. Monthly line rentals will range from £15, with no free calls, to £25, with 1,200 minutes of free off-peak calls. The company also said it would soon introduce a mobile phone e-mail service.

Commentary, page 25

Freeserve chief named

BY CHRIS AYRES

DIXONS GROUP yesterday appointed John Pluthero, a 35-year-old accountant, as chief executive of Freeserve, its free Internet access business.

The appointment was announced just 24 hours after Dixons revealed that it had hired Credit Suisse First Boston and Cazenove & Co to advise on a potential stock market flotation of Freeserve.

Dixons said that Mr Pluthero had "formulated the group's Internet strategy and devised, developed and launched Freeserve". He has a first class degree in economics from the London School of Economics and is a qualified consultant.

Analysts estimate that Freeserve could be worth between £1.8 billion and £4 billion.

Restructure to cut Kvaerner by a third

BY CARL MORTISHED
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

KVAERNER launched a massive restructuring programme yesterday which will shrink the Anglo-Norwegian engineering group by a third, cost its shareholders Kr4 billion (£330 million) and lead to the loss of 25,000 jobs worldwide.

In an attempt to reverse years of mismanagement and the financial effects of its £904 million bid for Trafalgar House, Kvaerner plans to quit shipbuilding, cutting its annual revenues by Kr25 billion to create a slimmer company focused on engineering and contracting.

Kvaerner is dramatically reversing the near-suicidal expansion plan of three years ago, when it bought Trafalgar House, taking on huge debts and extraneous assets, such as the Cunard cruise line, which it has since sold. In October the board ousted former chief executive Erik Tonseth.

His successor, Kjell Almskog, yesterday said that shipbuilding would be a drain on profits for the foreseeable future. Kvaerner has set itself the task of reversing last year's Kr1.35 billion loss to a profit of between Kr500 million to Kr1 billion at the end of next year. "By the end of the year 2000 we aim to achieve a return on capital of at least 15 per cent," he said.

The cost of shedding the shipyards, which will either be spun-off in a flotation or sold individually, is expected to leave Kvaerner with a loss of Kr2 billion, a charge that is to be borne in the first-quarter accounts. A further charge of Kr2 billion is to be taken for the sale of non-core assets and restructuring.

The company's North Sea oil and gas contracting business is to be slimmed down. Kvaerner investors are being asked to fund the new strategy with a Kr2 billion rights issue. The company is promising cost savings of Kr1 billion per year from a radical pruning of its payroll. This will involve the closure or transfer of 33 offices worldwide with the loss of 290 staff. In addition, three London headquarters locations are to be reduced to the single Hammersmith office complex, saving Kr50-60 million.

Some Kr650 million will be gained from reducing overheads at a divisional level. In engineering and oil and gas, offices in London and Perth will be integrated, with staff reductions of 1,300.

Commentary, page 25

RJB's future is secured by £1.3bn Nat Power deal

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

THE future of RJB Mining, Britain's biggest coal producer, was secured yesterday when it won a £1.3 billion contract from National Power.

However, much of the agreement to buy up to 28 million tonnes of coal from RJB hinges on options for the huge Drax power station, which is being sold.

The new owners of Drax, which burns 10 million tonnes of coal a year and supplies 10 per cent of England and Wales's power, could choose to buy supplies from overseas. It is thought that up to 14 million tonnes of the deal are only optional contracts.

The four-year deal comes on top of an 18-million tonne, *three-year agreement signed* last year between National Power and RJB — taking the full contract to five years.

The price is thought to be 120p a gigajoule, in line with previous contracts with PowerGen and Eastern and about 20 per cent lower than prices commanded last year by RJB under old contracts.

If National Power and the new Drax owners take all 46 million tonnes, RJB will be left with overcapacity of one to two million tonnes. However, with the closure of two mines owned by an independent mining company and the possibility of increasing sales to industrial markets, RJB could reasonably expect to find extra sales in the short term.

Richard Budge, chief executive of RJB, said that all collieries had now been saved from the threat of closure on market grounds, although geological factors were not so certain. He *said the deal would* "enable us to plan our mining operations in the most cost- effective way for some years to come".

There have been claims that because the market, rather than policy, dictates Britain's energy mix, RJB cannot make long-term investment plans. However, Mr Budge said: "We have contracts stretching over four years. How many FTSE companies have that?"

Graham Brown, National Power's managing director, said that there could be scope for further purchases under the long-term deal.

John Battle, Energy Minister, said: "It's welcome news that National Power, like other major generators, has recognised the value of UK coal in providing flexible and secure supplies in an increasingly competitive market."

The Government's Energy White Paper, published last year, was triggered by a crisis *looming in coalmining as gas* displaced coal in the generating market. Ministers set a de facto moratorium on new gas-fired power stations, but last week did a U-turn by allowing a big new gas station in Wales.



Merlyn Lowther, chief cashier of the Bank of England, yesterday signing the global bill representing €300 million (£202 million) when the Bank held its first auction of euro bills

Cruickshank extends review

DON CRUICKSHANK, the man hired by the Government to investigate the competitiveness of Britain's retail banks, said yesterday that he *had extended his review to* take in electronic commerce and money transmission (Caroline Merrell writes).

Mr Cruickshank, who launched his review at the beginning of the year, said that he had received more than 100 responses — and 70 complaints from members of the public against banks and finance houses.

The review is looking at the competitiveness of the banks' lending to small businesses, current accounts and credit cards. Mr Cruickshank is expected to report his findings by the end of the year.

Yesterday at a briefing on the review's progress, Mr Cruickshank said: "The responses to the consultation *document have been thoughtful and constructive.*"

Mr Cruickshank also denied categorically that Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, had ever considered imposing any kind of windfall tax on bank profits.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

US brokers report record first quarter

WALL STREET'S recovery from last year's global market turmoil was underlined yesterday when Merrill Lynch, the biggest US broker, and Paine Webber, another top-five securities house, reported record first-quarter profits. The strong performance lifted the shares of both companies in early trading and also boosted Internet brokers, such as Charles Schwab.

Merrill Lynch, which owns Mercury Asset Management, the UK-based fund manager, said that net earnings were $609 million (£378 million), up 18 per cent on the same period in 1998. The results were buoyed by rising commissions and trading profits. The earnings per share figure of $1.44 topped analysts' forecasts, which had hovered about $1.23. Net revenues were up 11 per cent to $5.3 billion. Staff costs increased by the same factor. Merrill said that Mercury had "continued to build momentum", with new institutional business at record levels in the period. Paine Webber profits rose 33 per cent to $160.6 million in the first three months of the year, again well ahead of forecasts. Revenues were $1.3 billion, up 18 per cent.

Tie Rack in the red

TIE RACK, the troubled British neckwear retailer that recently sold out for £22.6 million to one of its suppliers, the Italian textile firm Frangi, said yesterday that trading in the first ten weeks of its new financial year remained challenging. The group, which operates from 426 outlets, also revealed that losses before tax and exceptional items were £7.4 million for the year to January 31, 1999, having made a profit of £5.1 million last time. Turnover in the year fell 13 per cent to £90 million.

House price gap

THE gap between house prices in London and the rest of the South East is now wider than it was at any time in the 1980s housing boom, according to the Nationwide Building Society's latest quarterly review. It indicates that house prices in London are now 20 per cent higher than the South East and nearly two and half times, on average, higher than the North. The society has lifted its forecast for house price inflation this year from 2.5 per cent to 4.5 per cent because of an improvement in consumer confidence after recent cuts in base rates.

PacifiCorp go-ahead

SCOTTISH POWER yesterday cleared UK regulatory hurdles in its £4.7 billion attempt to takeover PacifiCorp. But the company still faces a series of regulatory challenges in the US. Kim Howells, Competition and Consumer Affairs Minister, said he would allow the merger, which in effect is a takeover, following the advice of the Office of Fair Trading and the energy regulator. If the takeover is completed, Scottish Power has said it will restructure the holding company to divide generation and non-electricity businesses from the others.

Japanese venture for 3i

THE venture capitalist 3i is on the search for management buyout potential in Japan, with the announcement of a joint venture with Industrial Bank of Japan. The two are launching a Y20 billion (£100 million) initial fund in which the equity split will be 60-40 in 3i's favour. Brian Larcombe, chief executive of 3i, said: "We see many parallels with the development of our market in Germany. There is a need for large companies to restructure and concentrate on core activities and for independent companies to solve their own succession problems."

EXCHANGE RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.63	2.45
Austria Sch	21.57	19.91
Belgium Fr	63.51	58.55
Canada $	2.524	2.336
Cyprus Cyp £	0.9089	0.8374
Denmark Kr	11.70	10.81
Egypt	5.72	5.11
Finland Mkk	9.44	8.69
France Fr	10.28	9.50
Germany Dm	3.087	2.845
Greece Dr	511	472
Hong Kong $	13.34	12.14
Iceland	130	110
Indonesia	17734	12734
Ireland Pt	1.2320	1.1430
Israel Shk	6.86	6.20
Italy Lira	3071	2834
Japan Yen	209.18	191.65
Malta	0.675	0.616
Netherlds Gld	3.486	3.191
New Zealand $	3.12	2.88
Norway Kr	13.12	12.18
Portugal Esc	312.29	290.26
S Africa Rd	10.57	9.61
Spain Pta	260.27	241.48
Sweden Kr	14.18	13.08
Switzerland Fr	2.552	2.334
Turkey Lira	629556	587711
USA $	1.721	1.578

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

COMPETITION THE TIMES



WIN A COTTAGE IN CORNWALL

● Today *The Times*, in association with the Virgin *One* account, offers readers the chance to win a lovely cottage in the typical Cornish village of Perranwell Station. Smithy Cottage, with its two bedrooms and pretty garden, is the ideal holiday home. Close to Truro and an 18-hole golf course, our prize cottage will provide the lucky winner with the perfect place from which to watch the eclipse of the sun on August 11.

HOW TO ENTER Collect 12 *Times* tokens and two tokens from *The Sunday Times* and attach them to an entry form which appeared for the last time yesterday. Tokens will appear up to April 18 and a bonus token will be published on Friday. The winner will be chosen at random from all entries received by Friday, April 30, 1999. Normal Times Newspapers prize draw rules apply.





CHANGING TIMES

Withdrawals at Barclays



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Barclays does appear to be the victim of genuine bad luck in losing its latest chief executive on his first day in office. While the initial reaction to Mike O'Neill's resignation was frantic whispering as to what horrific revelations had caused him to feel that the job was not worth taking on, even for a £10 million package, the facts are more prosaic, if harder on Mr O'Neill.

Running a bank is a stressful job, and Barclays probably more than most, as Martin Taylor might confirm. It is not a task for a man with a heart condition and both Mr O'Neill and the bank have clearly made a sensible decision. But it does leave Barclays in a mess.

Not only is it without a chief executive but it has a finance director who is itching to flee. The appointment of his successor was being delayed until Mr O'Neill could make the final choice. The likelihood now is that Oliver Stocken's replacement will have to be appointed before the new chief executive is finalised.

Chairman Andrew Buxton will not, however, hold up his retirement. Not that he is leaving the bank. Mr Buxton will now assume a lucrative consultancy role. His apparent value to the bank's Far East operations has come as a revelation to some Barclays' watchers, but a consultancy is not an uncommon perk for those who are not yet ready to live on a pension. And Mr Buxton had agreed to make way for Sir Peter Middleton, the former Treasury mandarin who was ready for a bank chairmanship.

Sir Peter, already acting chief executive, will just have to combine his acting with the chairmanship. Yesterday, he was indicating that he did not think he would be doing so for very long but in making the next appointment, Barclays has to be careful that it does not look as if it is being panicked into a rash appointment.

Contenders for the chief executive's role know the going rate for the job and may feel they have Barclays over a barrel in agreeing terms. They might not all, however, find it easy to match Mr O'Neill's commitment. He did, after all, but £5 million of Barclay shares once his appointment was confirmed. It has turned out to be a wise investment. Enthusiasm over his recruitment sent the shares upwards; his abrupt resignation has sent them further skywards.

Mr O'Neill has now made £1 million on his stake, thanks to the market's view that Barclays now looks vulnerable to a bid. It may be that Royal Bank of Scotland will fulfil the punters' wishes, but Sir George Mathewson is a canny individual who will be in no hurry to bail out the Barclays board.

Martin Taylor's favoured partner, NatWest, would not even try to persuade the Monopolies Commission that a merger should be allowed, and overseas buyers are not rushing into the UK at the moment. The next chief executive may be wise to plead poverty when he talks terms.

Kvaerner's victims of optimism

Under the expansive Anglophile Erik Tönseth, Kvaerner long seemed too good to be true. Time and again, the Norwegian group would buy heavy engineering yards that seemed suited only for the knacker, relying on low buying prices, high debt and cashflow to make them pay.

This expansive, job-saving philosophy was not confined to the Clyde. It made Kvaerner the biggest shipbuilder in Europe, as well as owner of a yard in America, where they prosper under statutory protection.

Then came the great leap forward by the purchase of Trafalgar House, the engineering conglomerate whose nervous shareholders were eager to take £820 million of Norwegian cash. With one, debt-laden, bound, Kvaerner had become a world-scale company, even if badly undercapitalised for its scale of operations.

Business historians will doubtless long argue whether Trafalgar was the classic bid too far or if the rot spread from the old unprofitable Norwegian businesses that Mr Tönseth was trying to diversify away from. After a huge loss and Mr Tönseth's fall last autumn, it became clear that Kvaerner was too good to be true and that waking from the dream was going to be painful.

All involved will suffer. Shareholders are being asked to cough up new capital to replace heavy write-offs made under the new boss's shrinkage plan.

The Clyde may pay a heavier price. The Govan yard, its remaining big league shipbuilder, is in good shape but has few orders. That will not make it easy to sell when yards all across Europe, some with better immediate prospects, are also for sale.

European Shipbuilding is also under pressure. Last year, Korean and Japanese yards were neck and neck, winning a combined 74 per cent of orders, in terms of tonnage, against Europe's 17 per cent. And the total market shrank by a seventh. Only orders for cruise ships are booming and the UK no longer makes them on any scale.

In the short term even China, the new power in shipbuilding, is suffering from Korea's forced devaluation. In the long run, Koreans are trying to switch away from cheap tonnage and leave tankers to China. That means moving to build ships with higher added value in which European yards specialise.

Some at least of Kvaerner's discarded British assets should find new owners. But their employees should beware of another optimistic new Kaverner.

The wrong kind of contrition

As commuters gulped their breakfast yesterday before rushing to the station in the hope that, at some stage, a train might appear, they may have suffered a sense of humour failure. For those who breakfasted to the accompaniment of Radio 4's *Today* programme would have heard Gerald Corbett boasting of the fine performance being achieved by Railtrack.

Those facing an indeterminate wait for a train might have considered that Railtrack's acknowledged responsibity for the late running of 40 per cent of trains would be a cause of some embarrassment to Mr Corbett. On the contrary, however. The Railtrack chief executive gave every impression of believing that his company was doing a good job. Mr Corbett is a positive thinker and prefers to dwell on the fact that Railtrack's performance was even worse before privatisation. That argument will not be appreciated by those commuters who know that if their own standard of performance merits just a 60 per cent score, then they will not have to worry about commuter trains for long.

Railtrack investors have prospered at the expense of travellers. Mr Corbett now makes much of the £27 billion that he will be investing to improve things but results, not promises, are necessary. Tom Winsor, the new regulator, has made it clear that he will take a tough line. As an initial response, Mr Corbett would be well advised to show a little contrition.

Pre-pay predicament

CONSUMERS can still beat the marketing folk, for a while. One 2 One devised a tariff using pre-payment cards to attract a new class of customer to mobile phones: people who want to be in touch but also want to be sure they do not run up big surprise bills. The promotion seemed a great success. Vast numbers signed up but the new customers have duly failed to run up huge bills, so there is no money in it for One 2 One. Naturally, the tariffs are being reorganised to confound the pesky customers.

Five vie to buy Havas's poster combine

By Raymond Snoddy
Media Editor

THE £600 million bid battle for Europe's biggest outdoor advertising business has entered its closing stages with offers coming in for the outdoor operations of Havas, which include Mills & Allen in the UK.

With final offers due to be in by Friday week, five companies have already submitted bids of more than £500 million. The winning bid is expected to approach £600 million.

The five in the final round are: Clear Channel Communications, owner of More O'Ferrall in the UK; TDI, owned by CBS of the US and which has London Underground and bus advertising contracts in the UK; JC Decaux, the French group specialising in bus shelter advertising; Outdoor Systems International of the US; and Texas Pacific, a US venture capital group.

Havas, which is owned by Vivendi, formerly Generale des Eaux, put its outdoor advertising businesses up for sale in November after deciding to concentrate on publishing and multimedia activities.

The businesses being sold include companies in nine European countries, including the UK, France, Spain and Italy, as well as Sky Sites, the international airport advertising group. Havas says that it wants to sell the operations to a single buyer that must be free of regulatory problems.

If Clear Channel or TDI were to win, Mills & Allen would almost certainly have to be sold because of UK monopoly problems. Clear Channel has 26 per cent of the UK market, TDI 22 per cent and Mills & Allen 15 per cent. A management buyout of Mill & Allen would then be a possibility.

The ability to buy Europe's largest outdoor advertising group in a single package would be particularly attractive to Americans wanting to enter the European market.



Clarks board to ballot family and shareholders on flotation

By Sarah Cunningham
Retail Correspondent

THE BOARD of the C&J Clark shoe group is planning to ballot members of the family that controls it to find out whether they wish to see the business floated on the Stock Exchange.

Tim Parker, chief executive of the group, which is based in Somerset, said that restructuring work was almost complete and that sales were growing fast enough for flotation to be a realistic option.

The company revealed yesterday that sales grew 6.6 per cent last year to £792 million, leading to operating profit before exceptional items of £42.5 million, a 7.9 per cent increase.

Roger Pedder, chairman, said: "We could float now. We have a profit record that would allow it, but we don't think the time is propitious. There have been no new listings of any significant nature for six months."

The board would need 75 per cent of shareholders to vote in favour of flotation. A secret ballot of the 5,600 shareholders has been planned and will probably take place in the second half of next year. If it receives a mandate, the board will make the final decision on the timing of a flotation. The 400 Clarks family members control 68 per cent of the group's equity.

Mr Parker said: "From a company point of view we don't need cash. We don't need to be a public company. It is a shareholder issue and is primarily about liquidity."

Mr Pedder said: "Although we are agnostic because it is a shareholder matter, if we are going to be a world player — and in a couple of years we will be 50-50 UK and non-UK sales — we may need to float."

Restructuring costs last year, including the closure of three factories in the UK and the sale of the Australian retail business, cost £33 million.

Mr Parker said that he did not expect to see further large restructuring charges this year. The best performance last year came from the Clarks and K retail chains, which saw like-for-like sales increase of 11.2 per cent. US operating profits dropped from £11 million to £9.2 million as a result of tough trading conditions, and the 190-shop retail business is being trimmed back.

Nonetheless, Mr Parker said that C&J Clark was now looking at acquisition opportunities, particularly in the US and continental Europe.

CHRIS ISON



Best foot forward: Tim Parker, chief executive of C&J Clark, who described a stock market listing as a realistic option

Ashcroft seeks to withdraw offer for CSG

By Paul Durman

MICHAEL ASHCROFT, the wealthy financier, is seeking to withdraw his £250 million takeover offer for Corporate Services Group, after three directors of the troubled employment company yesterday bowed to shareholder pressure to resign.

It appears the Takeover Panel is considering forcing Mr Ashcroft to proceed with the offer, even though it was made on condition that there were no changes to the CSG board. Mr Ashcroft is on holiday, apparently having abandoned interest in CSG.

The Panel and Mr Ashcroft's advisers at Rea Brothers are disputing whether it is reasonable for him to withdraw the offer solely on the basis of board changes.

New Carlisle, the bid vehicle that is to be formed by a merger of Mr Ashcroft's Nasdaq and AIM-listed interests, continued to pursue its interest in CSG even after Jeffrey Fowler resigned as its chairman last Thursday.

Ralph Hulbert, who replaced Mr Fowler as chairman, Tim Holland-Bosworth and Ronald de Young also agreed to resign yesterday. The directors were opposed by CSG investors claiming to own more than 60 per cent of the group, but they had delayed resigning in case that should threaten Mr Ashcroft's offer.

Mr Ashcroft's intervention at CSG has complicated an already confused situation. It would be unusual for the panel to force him to proceed with an offer against his wishes.

He sought to lapse the New Carlisle offer on Monday. New Carlisle said last night that Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the advisers to the investors seeking to oust four CSG directors, had been unable to satisfy the panel that they had sufficient support to force through the board changes. New Carlisle is currently seeking to use the departure of Mr Fowler as its reason to withdraw the offer.

CSG will convene an extraordinary meeting of shareholders in about two weeks, time.

Internet initiative by C&W

By Chris Ayres

CABLE & WIRELESS is to invest $670 million (£420 million) in the US Internet business it bought from MCI WorldCom last year, in a bid to stop customers defecting to rival networks.

The investment, which C&W says will create "the industry's fastest, high-capacity Internet network backbone", comes amid a bitter legal battle between C&W and MCI. The British company is accusing MCI of breaking various agreements related to the $1.75 billion sale of its Internet assets. C&W yesterday insisted that its investment in the US had nothing to do with that spat but admitted that it needed to invest heavily to stop customers moving to rival networks.

City analysts applauded the investment. Jim McCafferty, of SG Securities, said: "It shows that C&W is being a bit more pro-active on the Internet front."

C&W will buy 15,000 miles of so-called "dark fibre" from Level 3 Communications, which will run between 50-plus metropolitan areas. The fibre is "dark" because it has been put in the ground, but not yet plugged into a live network.

Allied Domecq puts for sale sign over John Bull

By Dominic Walsh

ALLIED DOMECQ, the Beefeater Gin and Firkin pubs group, has hoisted a for sale sign over John Bull, its international pub franchise business, as part of a shake-up of its troubled retailing arm.

The decision to sell John Bull, which has almost 60 pubs in 14 countries, follows a profit warning in January that has wiped more than £1 billion from Allied's stock market value. Worse than expected trading from its pubs side was blamed and the company has been conducting a review of the whole business.

John Bull, which was launched in 1990, offers franchisees a quick-build Victorian pub design, which is claimed to recreate "the ambience of the warmth and sociability of the best of British tradition". However, it is being seen as a distraction at a time when the company needs to focus on its 3,600 UK pubs, ranging from Firkin and Big Steak managed houses to Vanguard tenancies.

As part of the shake-up of its international retailing arm, the five Firkin pubs opened in Holland and France over the past three years have been subsumed into the UK management structure. The group denied suggestions that the five units had been put up for sale.

In the UK, the company is reported to be revamping its Firkin chain, moving it away from the youth and student market, while making the concept more attractive to women. The first new-look Firkin is in Cheltenham. It is understood that some Firkin pubs will be debranded.

News of the shake-up comes at a time of heightened speculation of a possible demerger of Allied's retailing arm from its spirits division. Although the group has played down the rumours, it has always accepted that a demerger was one of the options at its disposal. It also denied recent reports that its Vanguard operation was being touted around the market.

Law changes 'needed on mis-selling'

THE consumer arm of the Financial Services Authority has cautioned that the protection of the public from further mis-selling will be undermined unless changes are made to legislation (Gavin Lumsden writes).

Barbara Saunders, chairwoman of the FSA's Consumer Panel, yesterday told the parliamentary committee examining the Financial Services and Markets Bill that the Bill's general principle that "consumers should take responsibility for their own decisions" should be removed. She said a clause should be introduced requiring financial products to be satisfactory and suitable.

Hopes of £2bn bid for Laporte vanish

By Paul Durman

THE hopes of a £2 billion bid for Laporte were dashed yesterday, a day after the specialty chemicals company announced it was in takeover talks.

After Laporte said the talks had ended yesterday morning, its shares slid back 95p to 667½p, having jumped by nearly 30 per cent on Monday.

Analysts blamed the collapse of the deal on Hoechst, the German chemicals group that owns 45 per cent of Clariant, the Swiss company identified as the bidder for Laporte. Hoechst is seeking its own merger with Rhone-Poulenc of France, a deal that will create one of the world's largest pharmaceutical groups.

However, industry sources cast doubt on the Hoechst explanation. They said Clariant has adequate financial resources to buy Laporte without recourse to Hoechst, whose voting rights are in any case restricted to 10 per cent. It was also suggested Laporte's talks with Clariant did not founder on difficulties over price, strategy, personality or regulatory issues. It is understood Laporte felt unable to rescue the deal once Clariant signalled it had problems proceeding.

Laporte, significantly reshaped by Jim Leng, its chief executive, over the past few years, is now seen as being in play, and could attract other offers.

Tempus, page 26

STOCK MARKET | SAEED SHAH

Wall St shows London the way to a record

THE London market opened on a supercharged note yesterday after Wall Street scaled new heights on Monday. The New York sentiment combined with the release of strong US retail sales data later in the day to drive the FTSE 100 index to another record high of 6,513.1 points, up 71.9.

Barclays Bank provided the two biggest surprises of the day. First it revealed that Michael O'Neill, its new chief executive, had quit for health reasons. Then its stock rallied to finish 46p higher on the day at £19.19.

Analysts said the sector was benefiting from the improving outlook for the UK economy, backed by Monday's robust high street spending figures from the British Retail Consortium, and from speculation of further consolidation.

Lloyds TSB, 39½p higher at £10.60, extended Monday's strong run amid rumours that the UK's biggest bank was searching for acquisitions on the Continent or in the US. **Royal Bank of Scotland** put on 4.55 per cent to £14.25 and **Abbey National** was up 39p to £13.80p.

The performance of **Railtrack** attracted strong criticism in a report published by the Rail Regulator. Its stock fell 24p to £13.55. The report said the rail infrastructure company was failing to resolve problems with train delays, signalling schemes and station improvements.

Shares in **Dewhirst Group**, the supplier of clothing and toiletries to Marks & Spencer, were marked higher in afternoon trading amid speculation that the group could receive a bid at 120p per share within the next five days. Its shares were up 5½p to 92p. Last week the company reported pre-tax profits for the year to January 15, 1999, of £23 million, down from £31.4 million the year before.

The brewers enjoyed a good day, with the presentation given to analysts by **Scottish & Newcastle**, 27p higher at 674p, on Friday boosting the entire sector.

Shares in **Bass** rose 33p to 877½p, amid suggestions that **Granada Group**, 50p higher at £14.43, was considering a bid for the brewing and hotels group. However, analysts dismissed the story, arguing that Granada's priority was to buy an international contract catering group such as Aramark of the US or Sodexho, the French group that owns Gardner Merchant. **Whitbread**, 30½p better at 978½p, was also lifted by the general positive sentiment.

Portsmouth & Sunderland, the newspaper group that is the subject of multiple takeover attempts from Johnston Press, Newscom and Newsquest, gained 50p to £17.50p, after Johnston disclosed that it had bought a further 2.4 per cent to take its holding to 17.4 per cent. All three suitors have to wait for a Competition Commission ruling expected in the first week of June. There is speculation that Johnston wants to build its stake to 24.99 per cent, the regulatory limit for a media company.

The telecoms sector recovered some poise after getting caught in the gloom on Monday. **Vodafone Group** gained 9p to £12.12, after receiving the clearance from the US Internal Revenue Service, allowing its $58 billion merger with AirTouch Communications to proceed on a tax-free basis. **Telewest Communications** edged up 3½p to 293¾p, **Orange** rose 2p to 927½p and **JWE Telecom** gained 5p to 165p.

Other telecoms gainers included **BT**, 3p ahead at £10.75, **Energis**, 28p up at £18.60 and **Cable & Wireless**, 2½p higher, after it revealed that it is investing $607 million in the US to develop the next generation high capacity Internet network.

Telecoms groups which failed to follow suit included **COLT Telecom**, 19p down at 1201p, and **Securicor**, owner of 40 per cent of BT Cellnet, was 6p lower at 562½p.

Financial company **London Pacific Group** soared 79 per cent to 393½p on hopes that a raft of forthcoming IPOs of private Internet stocks in which it has invested will significantly enhance its net asset value.

Strong figures from **Tesco** saw Britain's biggest supermarket jump 9p to 169p. The company saw the biggest percentage share gain of the day amid brisk trading that saw 56.5 million stocks change hands.

Buyers continued their migration back into **Marks & Spencer's** shares on the back of increasingly positive sentiment about the company. It gained 14p to 429p.

Dixons shed 22p to £15.42 on profit-taking, following the huge gains on Monday after it announced that it was considering floating Freeserve, its Internet service provider.

Mulberry, the luxury goods retailer, saw its shares fall a costly 2p to 32p after warning that losses for the year would be worse than anticipated.

□ **GILT-EDGED:** Gilts were caught up in general global bond market weakness yesterday, and ended lower in thin trading, with most market players now looking ahead to a slew of UK economic data next week. The June series of the long gilt closed down 27p at £118.00, while among conventional issues, Treasury 7 per cent 2002 shed 12p to £106.47

□ **NEW YORK:** Positive economic news helped to boost Wall Street. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 33.57 to 10373.08.

Chris Gent, chief executive of Vodafone, up 9p to £12.12 after good news on its merger with Airtouch Communications

UNDER-PERFORMING PACKAGING

Smurfit | FTSE All-share index (rebased) | Source: Datastream | 60–260p | Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

ENCOURAGING results from Jefferson Smurfit, up 16p to 142p yesterday, were achieved thanks to a buoyant US market. The UK packaging environment remains difficult and is likely to remain so for some time, especially for those in the sector serving manufacturers.

The fundamentals have been weak for months, with the strength of sterling and South-East Asian weakness weighing down. However, packaging companies have enjoyed better valuations recently as a result of bid speculation. Consolidation is in full swing in the sector. With six companies snapped up by foreign predators in less than nine months — Tinsley Robor, Wace, Field, Sidlaw, Porter Chadburn and Crest — everyone is on the lookout for the next target.

Law & Bonar, unchanged at 183½p, and David S Smith, 10p ahead at 123p, look vulnerable. Even with some recent recovery in prices, current valuations present some good quality assets to be had.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones ... 10373.08 (+33.57)
S&P Composite ... 1351.67 (-6.97)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average ... 16715.16 (+207.76)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng ... 11899.69 (+154.95)

Amsterdam:
AEX Index ... 540.90 (+4.82)

Sydney:
AO ... 3076.3 (+38.1)

Frankfurt:
DAX ... 5199.18 (+40.02)

Singapore:
Straits ... 1679.98 (+18.70)

Brussels:
BEL20 ... 3327.75 (+4.16)

Paris:
CAC-40 ... 4367.41 (+12.41)

Zurich:
SMI Index ... 7366.2 (+13.3)

London:
FT 30 ... 3991.2 (+54.6)
FTSE 100 ... 6513.1 (+71.9)
FTSE 250 ... 5592.4 (+33.5)
FTSE 350 ... 3088.6 (+31.8)
FTSE Eurotop 100 ... 3035.38 (+39.04)
FTSE All-Share ... 2986.26 (+29.90)
FTSE Non Financials ... 2984.31 (+24.91)
FTSE Fixed Interest ... 155.55 (-0.29)
FTSE Govt Secs ... 114.19 (-0.24)
Bargains ... 85752
SEAQ Volume ... 1129.6m
US$ ... 1.6167 (+0.0017)
Euro ... 0.6675 (-0.0043)
£:SDR ... 1.1869
Exchange Index ... 103.2 (+0.5)
Bank of England official close (4pm)
RPI ... 163.7 Feb (2.1%) Jan 1987 = 100
RPIX ... 162.3 Feb (2.4%) Jan 1987 = 100

RECENT ISSUES

BGI Endowment III	102	...
Br Smaller Co's VCT (100)	95	...
Br Smlr Cos VCT Wrts	12½	...
Cairngorm Euro Restruct	111	...
Cairngorm Restruct Wrts	20	+ ½
Edinburgh Inc & Val	105½	...
Edinburgh Val Zero Dv Pf	102½	...
Enhanced Zero Trust	100¼	+ ½
Gartmore High Income	108	...
Gartmore Zero Div Pf	106¾	...
Luminar Warrants	255	− 10
M Currie Cap Return	77¼	+ ¼
M Currie Portfolio	81	+ 1¼
Mercury Asset Allocator	106½	...
Morse Holdings	234	...
NBA Quantum	110	...
Sherry FitzGerald	150	− 5
Sports Internet	135	+ 3½

RIGHTS ISSUES

Calluna n/p (125)	1½	+ ¼
Holmes Place n/p (275)	14	− 2½
Mice Group n/p (80)	18	...
Versalite&ANIL (05)	1¼	+ ¼

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Scapa	144	+ 27	+ 23.0
Ranger	274¼	+ 31¼	+ 13.0
Smurfit (Jeff)	142	+ 16	+ 12.6
Ruberoid	91½	+ 10	+ 12.2
Staffware	290	+ 25	+ 9.4
Sappi	318¼	+ 27¼	+ 9.3
Friendly Hotels	147½	+ 12½	+ 9.2
Smith David	123	+ 10	+ 8.8
Scotia	125½	+ 10	+ 8.6
St James Place	280	+ 21½	+ 8.3
Bodycote	865	+ 64	+ 7.9
Br Steel	139½	+ 10¼	+ 7.9
Air Partner	200	+ 12½	+ 6.6
General Mtr	5578¼	+325	+ 6.1
Kewill Sys	1517½	+ 87½	+ 6.1
Br Polythene	347½	+ 20	+ 6.1
AMVESCAP	670½	+ 38	+ 6.0
Charter	382½	+ 21½	+ 5.9
Impala Plat	1181¼	+ 65⅝	+ 5.8

FALLS:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Laporte	667½	− 95	− 12.4
Superscape VR	130½	− 13	− 9.0
Euro Sales Fn	436	− 34	− 7.2
Fincl Objects	282½	− 19½	− 6.4
Pressac	217	− 13	− 5.6
Ultraframe	382½	− 22½	− 5.5

TEMPUS

Value to shout about

TESCO reaffirmed its status as the class act of the supermarket sector yesterday with the publication of its annual results. It now controls nearly 16 per cent of the UK grocery market and is making significant inroads in the clothing, entertainment and electronics markets. It is big, too. Annual sales rose by 4.3 per cent last year, equal to a cool £1 billion. Sales have more than doubled in the past six years.

With the Competition Commission breathing down the industry's collective neck, it may appear foolhardy to invest in any supermarket stock just now. Even without the regulatory concerns, grocers face fierce competition among themselves. Furthermore, onshore growth opportunities are limited.

But while worries are justified elsewhere in the sector, investors should not be put off Tesco. It outclasses its UK competitors. Achieving 4 per cent like-for-like sales growth when the sector manages just 1.5 per cent is no mean achievement. Moreover, there is scope for its market share to grow further through the expansion of its Internet shopping service, the addition of non-food items in its larger superstores, and the opening of new Tesco Extra hypermarkets and small format Tesco Metros. Tesco also has the most convincing strategy for developing overseas. It is the only British supermarket that is coming close to entering the international league made up of the likes of Wal-mart, Carrefour and Ahold.

The contrast with J Sainsbury, which is expected to deliver some very poor trading figures on Friday, could not be starker. And while Tesco shares are more expensive than Sainsbury's, the difference is more than merited. Buy Tesco shares.

Laporte

LAPORTE'S takeover discussions lasted barely 24 hours — at least as far as the stockmarket was officially aware. Clariant's rumoured interest in Laporte may have been scuppered by Hoechst, which owns 45 per cent. Hoechst may have feared that Clariant's expanion plans could have complicated its merger with Rhône Poulenc. But while the talks have come to nothing this time, it seems likely that Laporte will succomb to takeover.

Shareholders will hope that they are put out of their misery sooner rather than later. The price of the shares more than halved last year and did little more than meander for the five years previous to that. In the past six months, helped by a moderate improvement in trading prospects and latterly by the takeover talk, the stock has perked up. The competitive nature of chemicals — even at the theoretically added value specialty end — means, however, that Laporte shareholders can expect a decent return only if the company is taken out.

A buyer may find more of interest in Laporte than the market does. Jim Leng, Laporte's ambitious chief executive, may also privately welcome the opportunity to extricate himself from grisly chemicals to seek a role in a more exciting industry.

Any which way, Laporte is clearly in play and there is every reason to hope for a rise in the share price from 667½p. Holders hold. Nimble investors may even hope to make a quick turn by buying in now.

ANY LAPORTE IN A STORM

FTSE All-share index (rebased) | Laporte share price | Source: Datastream | 300–1000p | O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A

Scapa Group

THERE are few easier ways to please the market these days than to sell any business that is even remotely connected to paper and packaging. Scapa Group experienced this first-hand yesterday when its beleaguered shares jumped 23 per cent after it said it was selling its paper products division for £329 million.

Part of the rise came because the sale price came in at a level greater than the entire market capitalisation of Scapa, at Monday's closing price. But the fact that Scapa no longer needs to be concerned about the excess capacity and falling margins that afflict the paper and packaging industry is a blessing.

The sale will eliminate debt, fund a 50p special dividend and leave Scapa with cash equal to about 40p a share. A further 15p a share could be generated from the planned sale of the company's specialty materials group, which Scapa hopes to complete within several months.

The company's remaining technical tapes business can be valued at about 65p a share using a conservative price/earnings multiple of 11 times. These assumptions lead to a total valuation of 170p a share, which in turn is 18 per cent above yesterday's closing price of 144p.

To the bull story can be added the promising organic growth opportunities for the tapes business in North America and the ability to spend up to £80 million on acquisitions. Buy.

Pressac

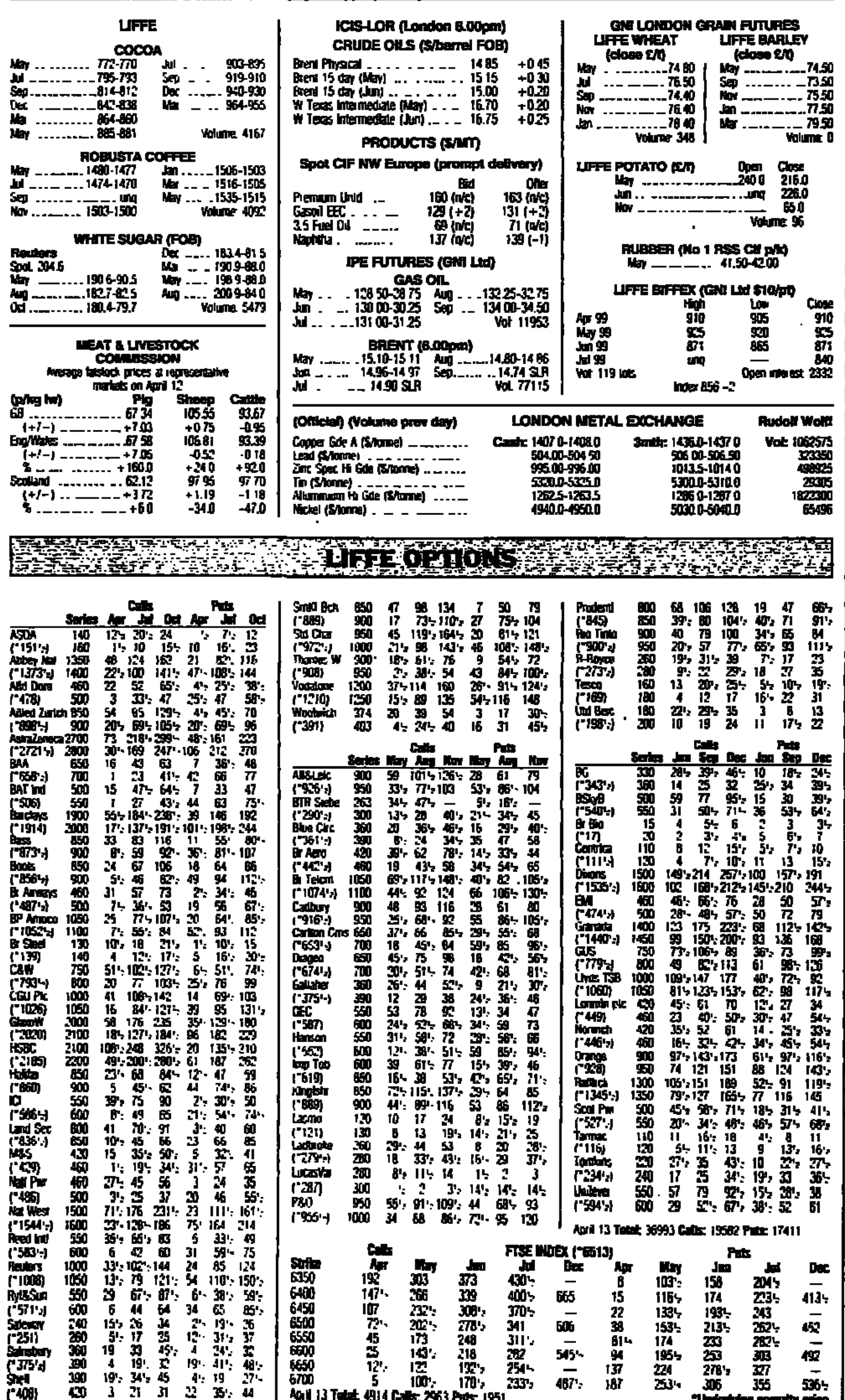
PRESSAC needed its big acquisition last year to save it from blushing yesterday. Without the benefit of the acquired earnings, group profit growth at the interim stage would have looked sickly.

The source of the discomfort in the ongoing business was a fall in sales to the automotive industry, thanks in large part to the disruptions at General Motors. Pressac says that these sales have been delayed rather than lost entirely — and there is no reason to dispute that. But the dependence on acquisitions remains a worry. The shares fell 5 per cent yesterday.

That said, this company has plenty of potential. It has cleverly identified that while car manufacturing is hard business, it can thrive supplying high-specification car parts which enhance, in an obvious and consumer-friendly way, manufacturers' products. Pressac also has growing exposure to the ever-exciting telecoms sector, too.

Tempus recommends that a decent number of Pressac shares be accumulated. But shareholders need to keep a close eye on the performance of the company, and their holdings.

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE



COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

May	772-770	Jul	903-895
Jul	795-793	Sep	919-910
Sep	814-812	Dec	940-930
Dec	842-838	Mar	964-955
Mar	864-860		
May	885-881		Volume: 4167

ROBUSTA COFFEE

May	1480-1477	Jan	1506-1503
Jul	1474-1470	Mar	1516-1505
Sep	unq	May	1535-1515
Nov	1503-1500		Volume: 4092

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Dec	183.4-81.5
Spot: 204.6		Mar	190.9-88.0
May	190.6-90.5	May	198.9-88.0
Aug	182.7-82.5	Aug	200.9-84.0
Oct	180.4-79.7		Volume: 5479

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION
Average fatstock prices at representative markets on April 12

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	67.34	105.55	93.67
(+/−)	+7.03	+0.75	-0.95
Eng/Wales	67.58	106.81	93.39
(+/−)	+7.05	-0.52	-0.18
%	+160.0	+24.0	+92.0
Scotland	62.12	97.96	97.70
(+/−)	+3.72	+1.19	-1.18
%	+6.0	-34.0	-47.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)
CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	14.85	+0.45
Brent 15 day (May)	15.15	+0.30
Brent 15 day (Jun)	15.00	+0.20
W Texas Intermediate (May)	16.70	+0.20
W Texas Intermediate (Jun)	16.75	+0.25

PRODUCTS ($/MT)
Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	160 (n/c)	163 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	129 (+2)	131 (+2)
3.5 Fuel Oil	69 (n/c)	71 (n/c)
Naphtha	137 (n/c)	139 (−1)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)
GAS OIL

May	128.50-28.75	Aug	132.25-32.75
Jun	130.00-30.25	Sep	134.00-34.50
Jul	131.00-31.25		Vol: 11953

BRENT (6.00pm)

May	15.10-15.11	Aug	14.80-14.86
Jun	14.96-14.97	Sep	14.74 SLR
Jul	14.90 SLR		Vol: 77115

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
May	74.80	May	74.50
Jul	76.50	Sep	73.50
Sep	74.40	Nov	75.50
Nov	76.40	Jan	77.50
Jan	78.40	Mar	79.50
	Volume: 348		Volume: 0

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
May	240.0	216.0
Jun	unq	226.0
Nov		65.0
		Volume: 96

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)
May ... 41.50-42.00

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Apr 99	910	905	910
May 99	925	920	925
Jun 99	871	865	871
Jul 99	unq	—	840
Vol: 119 lots			Open interest: 2332

Index 856 −2

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE (Official) (Volume prev day) — Rudolf Wolff

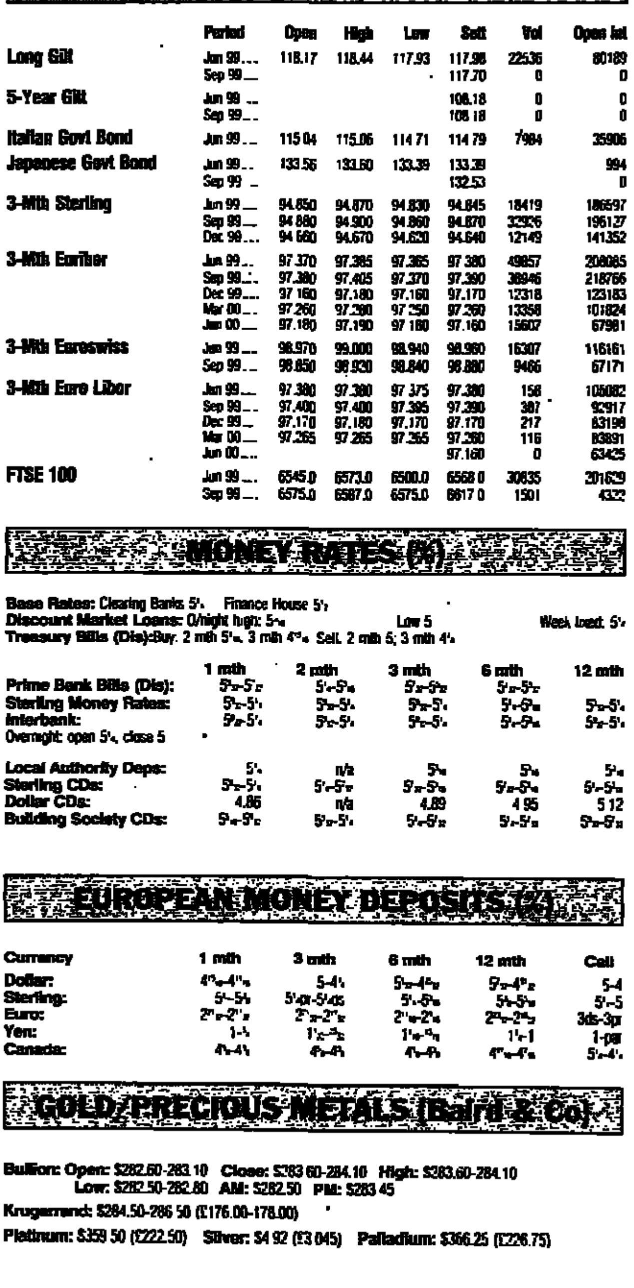
	Cash	3mth	Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	1407.0-1408.0	1436.0-1437.0	1062575
Lead ($/tonne)	504.00-504.50	506.00-506.50	323350
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	995.00-996.00	1013.5-1014.0	498925
Tin ($/tonne)	5320.0-5325.0	5300.0-5310.0	29305
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1262.5-1263.5	1286.0-1287.0	1822300
Nickel ($/tonne)	4940.0-4950.0	5030.0-5040.0	65496

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
ASDA	140	12½	20½	24	½	7½	12
(*151½)	160	1½	10	15½	10	16½	23
Abbey Nat	1350	48	124	162	21	82½	116
(*1373½)	1400	22½	100	141½	47½	108½	144
Alld Dom	460	22	52	65½	4½	25½	38½
(*478)	500	3	33½	47	25½	47	58½
Allied Zurich	850	54	95	129½	4½	45½	70
[illegible]							
Smith Bch	850	47	98	134	7	50	79
(*889)	900	17	73½	110½	27	75½	104
Std Chtr	950	45	119½	164½	20	81½	121
(*972½)	1000	21½	98	143½	46	108½	148½
Thames W	900	18½	61½	76	9	54½	72
(*908)	950	2½	38½	54	43	84½	100½
Vodafone	1200	37½	114	160	26½	91½	124½
(*1210)	1250	15½	89	135	54½	116	148
Woolwich	374	20	39	54	3	17	30½
(*391)	403	4½	24½	40	16	31	45½
Prudentl	800	68	106	128	19	47	66½
(*845)	850	39½	80	104½	40½	71	91½
Rio Tinto	900	40	79	100	34½	65	84
(*900½)	950	20½	57	77½	65½	93	111½
R-Royce	260	19½	31½	39	7½	17	23
(*273½)	280	9½	22	29½	18	27	35
Tesco	160	13	20½	25½	5½	10½	19½
(*169)	180	4	12	17	16½	22	31
Utd Bisc	180	22½	29½	35	3	8	13
(*198½)	200	10	19	24	11	17½	22
[illegible]							

FTSE INDEX (*6513) [illegible]

April 13 Total: 4814 Calls: 2963 Puts: 1851 | April 13 Total: 36993 Calls: 19582 Puts: 17411 | *Underlying security price



LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol	Open Int
Long Gilt	Jun 99	118.17	118.44	117.93	117.98	22536	80189
	Sep 99				117.70	0	0
5-Year Gilt	Jun 99				108.18	0	0
	Sep 99				108.18	0	0
Italian Govt Bond	Jun 99	115.04	115.06	114.71	114.79	7984	35906
Japanese Govt Bond	Jun 99	133.56	133.60	133.39	133.39		994
	Sep 99				132.53		0
3-Mth Sterling	Jun 99	94.850	94.870	94.830	94.845	18419	186597
	Sep 99	94.880	94.900	94.860	94.870	32926	196127
	Dec 99	94.660	94.670	94.620	94.640	12149	141352
3-Mth Euribor	Jun 99	97.370	97.385	97.365	97.380	49857	208085
	Sep 99	97.380	97.405	97.370	97.390	38946	218766
	Dec 99	97.160	97.180	97.160	97.170	12318	123183
	Mar 00	97.260	97.280	97.250	97.260	13358	101824
	Jun 00	97.180	97.190	97.180	97.160	15607	67981
3-Mth Euroswiss	Jun 99	98.970	99.000	98.940	98.960	16307	116161
	Sep 99	98.850	98.930	98.840	98.880	9466	67171
3-Mth Euro Libor	Jun 99	97.380	97.380	97.375	97.380	158	105082
	Sep 99	97.400	97.400	97.395	97.390	387	92917
	Dec 99	97.170	97.180	97.170	97.170	217	83198
	Mar 00	97.265	97.265	97.265	97.260	116	83891
	Jun 00				97.160	0	63425
FTSE 100	Jun 99	6545.0	6573.0	6500.0	6568.0	30835	201629
	Sep 99	6575.0	6587.0	6575.0	6617.0	1501	4322

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 5¼ Finance House 5½
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 5¼ Low 5 Week fixed: 5½
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 5¼; 3 mth 4⅞; Sell: 2 mth 5; 3 mth 4¾

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	5⅜-5¼	5¼-5⅛	5⅜-5¼	5¼-5⅛	
Sterling Money Rates:	5⅜-5¼	5⅜-5¼	5⅜-5¼	5¼-5⅛	5⅜-5¼
Interbank:	5⅜-5¼	5⅜-5¼	5⅜-5¼	5¼-5⅛	5⅜-5¼
Overnight: open 5¼, close 5					
Local Authority Deps:	5¼	n/a	5¼	5¼	5¼
Sterling CDs:	5⅜-5¼	5¼-5⅛	5⅜-5¼	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛
Dollar CDs:	4.86	n/a	4.89	4.95	5.12
Building Society CDs:	5¼-5⅛	5⅜-5¼	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5⅜-5¼

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth	Call
Dollar:	4⅞-4¾	5-4¾	5⅛-4⅞	5⅜-4⅞	5-4
Sterling:	5¼-5⅛	5¼pr-5¼ds	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5
Euro:	2⅞-2¾	2⅞-2¾	2⅞-2¾	2⅞-2¾	3ds-3pr
Yen:	1-½	1⅛-⅞	1⅛-⅞	1¼-1	1-par
Canada:	4¾-4½	4¾-4⅝	4¾-4⅝	4⅞-4¾	5¼-4¾

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open: $282.60-283.10 **Close:** $283.60-284.10 **High:** $283.60-284.10
Low: $282.50-282.80 **AM:** $282.50 **PM:** $283.45
Krugerrand: $284.50-286.50 (£176.00-178.00)
Platinum: $359.50 (£222.50) **Silver:** $4.92 (£3.045) **Palladium:** $366.25 (£226.75)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for April 13	Range	Close	1 month	3 Month
Copenhagen	11.099-11.140	11.127-11.140	¼-⅛pr	⅝-½pr
Euro	1.4973-1.4993	1.4973-1.4993	0.14-0.17ds	0.42-0.45ds
Montreal	2.4004-2.4108	2.4049-2.4080	0.15-0.08pr	0.38-0.24pr
New York	1.6132-1.6172	1.6162-1.6172	0.067-0.047pr	0.14-0.11pr
Oslo	12.502-12.535	12.518-12.535	⅛-¼ds	¼-⅜ds
Stockholm	13.383-13.417	13.393-13.417	⅜-¼pr	⅞-¾pr
Tokyo	194.01-194.62	194.17-194.43	1-¾pr	2½-2⅜pr
Zurich	2.3973-2.4042	2.4010-2.4041	1-⅞pr	2⅝-2½pr

Source: Extel — Premium = pr — Discount = ds

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.5678-1.5691
Canada	1.4898-1.4908
Denmark	6.8850-6.8900
Euro	0.9261-0.9268
Hong Kong	7.7493-7.7503
Japan	120.18-120.28
Malaysia	3.7995-3.8005
Norway	7.7435-7.7495
Singapore	1.7165-1.7175
Sweden	8.2890-8.2990
Switzerland	1.4856-1.4866

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6120-1.6140
Australia dollar	2.5302-2.5357
Bahrain dinar	0.6010-0.6162
Brazil real*	2.6930-2.7030
Cyprus pound	0.8575-0.8789
Euro	1.4952-1.4977
Finland markka	8.8027-8.9656
Greece drachma	477.75-489.75
Hong Kong dollar	12.4996-12.5090
India rupee	68.14-69.86
Indonesia rupiah	13684.0-14384.0
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4865-0.4989
Malaysia ringgit	6.1358-6.1393
New Zealand dollar	2.9762-2.9826
Pakistan rupee	79.15 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.8025-5.9497
Singapore dollar	2.7720-2.7744
S Africa rand	9.8280-10.0798
U A E dirham	5.8575-6.0061

Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank

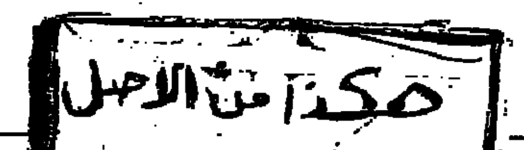
FTSE VOLUMES

3i	596	Kingfisher	7,328
ASDA Gp	12,741	Ladbroke	9,384
Abbey Ntl	2,908	Land Secs	1,289
Allnce & Lesc	1,594	Legal & Gn	1,977
Allied Dom	7,991	Lloyds TSB	17,411
Allied Zrch	3,589	Marks Spr	8,317
Amvescap	2,251	Misys	4,207
AB Foods	672	Nat Grid	2,248
AstraZeneca	4,746	Nat Power	4,354
Bk of Scot	5,162	NatWst Bk	3,115
BAA	5,477	Norwich Un	3,410
Barclays	8,465	Orange	873
Bass	4,060	P & O	4,649
BG	4,587	Pearson	1,424
[illegible]			

WALL STREET

	Apr 13 midday	Apr 12 close
AEF	[illegible]	[illegible]
AMR Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
AT & T	[illegible]	[illegible]
Abbott Labs	[illegible]	[illegible]
Adobe Systems	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]		
Du Pont	[illegible]	[illegible]
Eastman Chem	[illegible]	[illegible]
Eastman Kodak	[illegible]	63
Eaton Corp	[illegible]	79
Edison Intl	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]		
Occidental Pet	[illegible]	[illegible]
Office Depot	[illegible]	[illegible]
Oracle	[illegible]	25
Owens Corning	[illegible]	[illegible]
PPG Industries	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]		





Euro woes should come as no surprise

On the face of it, the first 100 days of the euro have thrown up many dramatic surprises. In all important respects, however, the past three months have been entirely predictable.

Many anticipated that the euro would be a strong currency in its early days, bolstered by massive flows of investment funds out of the dollar and backed by a European Central Bank that would keep a tight grip on monetary policy to build up its credibility. However, the euro has been more or less permanently weak.

This is not a surprise. It was evident, even as the single currency was born, that Europe was suffering just like others from the implosion of demand in emerging markets. Weak economies tend to result in weak currencies: that is the beauty of floating exchange rates, designed as they are to act as a natural restorative when things go badly.

Far from helping to bolster the euro, the refusal to cut rates by the ECB until it was far too late, again predictably, was counterproductive. When economies become as evidently weak as parts of euroland — particularly Germany — have become, a policy of tight money undermines, rather than bolsters, the currency.

What we have discovered about the euro over the past 100 days is that it goes up and down according to economic circumstances. It is not unusually gifted just because of the weight of parental expectation at its birth. It is, in short, a currency like any other. The current period of weakness is no more proof of the euro's failure than a bout of strength would have signified its success.

Some are shocked and dismayed by the evident weakness in the German economy. They should not be. The vulnerability of an uncompetitive Germany in the face of failing world demand was perfectly obvious before the euro was launched. It is now common currency (excuse the pun) to talk about the explosive possibility of Germany having to leave EMU some way down the road in order to rebuild its competitiveness. Like Britain with the exchange-rate mechanism, it looks as if Germany has fixed its currency at far too ambitious a level, but cannot devalue.

Germany is doing its best to squeeze through another emergency exit by pushing the case for wage harmonisation (as well as tax harmonisation). It knows that it cannot persuade its partners to inflate their wages to German levels out of kindness. So it is, with breathtaking *chutzpah*, trying to push through wage equalisation by arguing, quite speciously, that this is necessary to make monetary union and the single market work.

The truth is that if Germany is to get out of the hole it has dug itself (or that has lovingly been prepared for it by Paris), it has to undertake serious structural reform of its economy, and fast. Some optimists saw the dramatic departure of Oskar Lafontaine as the necessary removal of an important hurdle to reform. However, there is little sign that Hans Eichels is any more likely to dismantle the European social welfare state or reform labour markets than his predecessor.



JANET BUSH

In a pamphlet published by New Europe, the lobby group, next week, Professor Sir James Ball says: "The need for sweeping deregulation in Europe as a critical factor in obtaining maximum benefit from the single currency remains unrecognised officially at the highest levels."

So the economics of euroland look as alarming as ever, but what about the politics? The past three months have confirmed that the European Commission, unelected and unaccountable, was riddled with bad management and sleaze. The fact that the whole Commission was forced to resign and the fact that Romani Prodi this week took a scheduled flight to London and rode a London taxi rather than a limousine does not necessarily signify an effective clean-up of Europe's civil service. New Europe would warmly welcome recent events if that were the case.

Since the euro was launched, at least one thing has become clearer. The single currency was always designed to be a Trojan Horse for a United States of Europe, but at least that is now an openly stated aim.

Newcomers Herr Eichels and Signor Prodi are unashamed federalists. A majority of British people do not like the idea of a federal Europe and, judging from conversations I have had since New Europe was launched, this opinion has only hardened since January 1. However, the new candour at least shows the British people more clearly what they will be voting for if they vote to join the single currency.

Would that Tony Blair and his Government were courageous enough to admit this reality and let the British people have an honest debate about whether this is what it wants or not. If Mr Blair wants to be at the heart of a federal Europe, why doesn't he have the courage of his convictions and say so? He is entitled to his view like the rest of us.

This is the most important question determining the future identity of our nation. Yet the Government slyly obfuscates the choice to be made and pro-euro voices trivialise the single currency question, telling us, *inter alia*, that because we eat pasta and enjoy going to Tuscany on holiday, we can safely glide over all the complex and painful realities of life in euroland.

By doing so, they feed suspicion of the grand European project felt by many British sceptics, and amplify calls in some quarters to give up on Europe altogether — and that is not what most of us want. The euro was pushed through in much of Europe without proper discussion, and many ordinary people are already regretting that. Whatever the ultimate outcome, let us do better than this in Britain.

Janet Bush is director of New Europe, the anti-single currency lobby group. European Single Currency A Bad Idea *is available for £5 from New Europe, 52 Walnut Tree Walk, London SE11 6DN.*

Marketing man's Olympian feat of crisis management

BUSINESS

By Jason Nissé

PAT HANNAGAN



Worthy of a medal: Michael Payne, the IOC's marketing director, has been dogged by problems at almost every turn

Many people have difficult jobs. One would not like to be a recruitment consultant for Barclays or a spin-doctor for Saddam Hussein. However, few can have had a more difficult time over the past few months than Michael Payne, the marketing director of the International Olympic Committee.

The 41-year-old Englishman has had a crash course in crisis management. It started when the Asian economic crisis spilled over into the Australian economy, so bringing the jitters to sponsors, broadcasters and suppliers for the Sydney Games, which take place next year.

Then the IOC had a public falling out with IBM — the computer giant that has been an Olympic sponsor for more than 40 years — over the costs of technology for the Salt Lake City winter Games in 2002. IBM claimed that the IOC wanted too much technology for too little money, while Payne said that IBM's terms would have bankrupted the Salt Lake Games. The result was that IBM's relationship with the IOC "was terminated".

That had hardly calmed down when stories began to emerge about gifts being given to IOC by the organising committees of cities wanting to host the Olympics. This led to a chorus of calls for the resignations of a large proportion of the Games' governing body, including the President, Juan Antonio Samaranch.

Last month the IOC acted to defuse the crisis. Ten committee members were either fired or resigned; an ethics committee was set up with independent members including Javier Perez de Cuellar, the former UN Secretary-General, and Howard Baker, the former White House chief of staff; the IOC decided it would issue audited annual results, as befits a multibillion-dollar organisation; and a reform commission called IOC 2000 and boasting such luminaries as Henry Kissinger and Peter Ueberroth, who ran the Los Angeles games in 1984, was formed.

And just as the dust settles and Payne sets out from his office in Lucerne to sell the IOC's plan to the most difficult audience of all — the business community which has invested around £10 billion in the Olympics over the past two decades — he faces the rug being pulled from underneath him. A US Senator, John McCain, has proposed a motion in that the IOC's tax-exempt status should be withdrawn. McCain has argued that the endemic corruption of the IOC, if not reformed, makes it unworthy of the tax advantages it enjoys. Taking away the IOC's tax-exempt status could increase the costs of sponsoring the Olympics by 40 per cent — no doubt making many organisations think again.

The motion is being debated today and though Payne claims he is confident that the US Senate will reject McCain's proposal, he is worried about the matter. "Of our 11 partners (the core sponsors of the Olympics, who pay a minimum of £30 million each games for the honour), nine are US based," says Payne. "If the Senate created this tax situation, it would pett US corporations at a disadvantage to European or Japanese companies. I don't think this would be popular in the business community."

Payne has decided against travelling to Washington for the debate. As the the deep bags beneath his eyes testify, he has enough on his plate.

His biggest headache at the moment is in the form of an urbane, outspoken insurance salesman called David D'Alessandro. D'Alessandro is the president and chief executive officer of the John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company of Boston, one of the US's largest financial groups and an IOC partner. He is also a vocal critic of what has been going on at the IOC, calling for President Samaranch's resignation and that of Phil Coles, a member of both the IOC and the committee organising the Sydney games who admitted that his ex-wife had received jewellery from people associated with Athens' unsuccessful bid for the 1996 Games. (Both are still in office.)

While other sponsors have either been silent or — in the case of Kodak, at least — supportive of the IOC's reforms, Mr D'Alessandro has taken the Olympic rings off John Hancock's advertising and literature and has threatened to hold back payments, arguing that corporate sponsors would be tainted by association with an organisation that did not have clean hand. "They lied to us," Mr D'Alessandro said in an interview late last month. "They told us the scandal would be put behind us. But their version of the reform doesn't appear to be anybody else's."

Payne does not want to be caught in a slanging match with one of his sponsors, but he indicates that D'Alessandro may be grandstanding, while taking a less abrasive line behind the scenes. "No sponsor has withdrawn and no sponsor has asked to renegotiate its terms," Payne asserts. "We have over 40 multinationals involved in sponsoring the Olympics in one form or another. Only one company out of those 40 has chosen to speak out."

Indeed, in the midst of all this uproar, Payne has been able to sign a series of new sponsorship deals.

The first was with Sema, the Anglo-French group which took over at least part of IBM's role as technology partner. Another technology partner — rumoured to be Sun Microsystems — is due to be announced in the next few weeks, which would leave one vacancy, as the IBM role has been split into three to make the task more manageable.

Coca-Cola and Time Warner have both signed on as partners for another four years, and Payne claims he is close to announce deal with four more partners. Kodak and UPS are almost certain to resign and, with most sponsorship experts certain John Hancock will walk away, the key will be whether Visa International and McDonalds continue their association with the Olympics.

Payne admits that the Sydney Games is about £100 million short of its sponsorship target, and given that the games are only 15 months away this shortfall is now unlikely to be made up. However, Payne says the target was always unrealistic, having been increased by the Australian government twice after Sydney met previous targets.

"The total amount raised from sponsorship and broadcasting, but before ticket sales, is running at around A$2 billion (about £800 million) for Sydney," says Payne. "This is close to what was raised with ticket sales for Atlanta."

As for the Salt Lake City winter Games in 2002, again there is a shortfall running into hundreds of millions of dollars — and again Payne says it not the IOC's fault. He points out that US$500 million (about £315 million) has been raised in sponsorship and US$750 million in broadcast income — double the amount for the last winter Games at Nagano. "Where are they spending the money?" he asks.

The tempting answer is that much of it has gone back to IOC members in "gifts". Both the Sydney and Salt Lake City Games have been tarnished because of the background to how the cities secured the Olympics. However Payne argues that previous Olympics suffered worse problems — such as doping scandals, terrorist attacks and boycotts — yet were successful. "If the games are good, most of this will be forgotten," he claims, perhaps more in hope than expectation.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Firms with rates problems need to take prompt action

From Mr Bruce Jones

Sir, I feel it necessary to write to correct a wrong impression that might have been drawn by your readers from the article which appeared on April 6 under the headline "Companies urged to appeal against rates".

The article seems to suggest that there is something inherently wrong with the majority of rating assessments and that firms should therefore appeal against them. I have no means of checking the figures quoted by Fletcher King in respect of appeals that they have been involved in. I can, however, tell you that reductions in total rateable value as a result of settled appeals amount to considerably less than half of the 17 per cent quoted.

If firms are concerned to do something to get their rates bill right, the current review being undertaken of rateable values to take effect from 2000 provides an opportunity for ratepayers to avoid the appeal process altogether. What they need to do is to make sure that we at the Valuation Office have any relevant information about their rents now rather than waiting until the new rating lists come into force on April 1, 2000.

Ratepayers should respond to requests for information promptly and carefully, and if they are in any doubt as to what is required the local valuation officer, whose telephone number appears on all correspondence, will be pleased to help. It is in everyone's interests to make sure that the new rating assessments are right first time.

Yours faithfully,
BRUCE JONES,
Director Business Development,
Valuation Office Agency,
New Court, Carey Street,
London, WC2A 2JE.

Pep deadlines should be reviewed

From Mr Barry Tuckwood

Sir, Despite allowing ample time for delivery, I in common with thousands of others, have had contributions to personal equity plans returned because of delivery delays combined with the ruling of the Inland Revenue that Pep providers cannot use the franking on letters as evidence of the date of sending. Overall the delay and this ruling must have prevented the investment of millions of pounds.

This was not, surely, the intention of the (then) Chancellor when the rules on Peps were developed.

The current Chancellor should review this situation as a matter of extreme urgency.

Yours faithfully,
BARRY TUCKWOOD,
75 Lower Camden,
Chislehurst, BR7 5JD.

Tax bracket

From Mr John Deas

Sir, The Government seems to think that a tax by any other name will smell sweeter. The detailed terms of Lloyds Bank's share individual savings account state that interest on any cash balance will be credited "net of a 20 per cent, non-reclaimable Inland Revenue charge, which is levied by the Government as part of the Isa regulations". So that's all right — it's still tax free, then!

Yours faithfully,
JOHN DEAS,
5 Woolaston Drive, Alsager,
Stoke-on-Trent, ST7 2PL.

Fare play

PETER HAMBRO, a well-known name in gold circles and scion of the merchant banking family, is starting a pressure group for businessmen aggrieved by falling standards on British Airways.

Hambro, who has mines in Siberia and southern France and is a regular flyer, says the service on BA has "gone to hell" since the ever-popular Robert Ayling took over the running.

He is trying to recruit members for the BA Full Fare-Paying Passengers Association. Hambro is far from the first person to complain — BA has run into regular flak for poor service. A recent experience was typical, he says.

"I paid £440 for a round trip to Paris," he says. "When I got to the checkout on my way home, the lady there was hopelessly rude. I said: 'Mr Ayling wouldn't like that', and she said: 'I don't care. I hate Mr Ayling'."

A fax to Ayling elicited no response. "They don't seem to care at all about the businessman who is a regular traveller," he says.



"Another day . . . another chief executive"

WELCOMING yesterday's deal with RJB, Graham Brown of National Power said it provided "flexible and secure coal supplies in an increasingly competitive market.

John Battle, Energy Minister and in Venezuela at the time, thought the deal provided "flexible and secure coal..."

And so on. It is beyond belief that both men said the same thing simultaneously, an ocean apart, so it must have been scripted by the government spin-doctors. One expects this sort of thing from politicians, but they really should be told by the likes of National Power to keep their soundbites to themselves.



Hat trick

I AM normally pretty immune to the London Marathon, but one banker has found a novel way of raising money this weekend. Tom Attwood at mezzanine finance house Intemediate Capital Group is auctioning the logo on his running hat, the cash to go to Children with Leukaemia. Bids, now running into four figures, close on Friday afternoon.

Francis Mackay of Compass and Granada's Gerry Robinson have already been outbid by Cinven's Robin Hall.

Attwood, 46, has never run before and started training in January. I ask how long he expects to take. "About four and a half hours." Blimey, Tom, I could walk it in that.

Bank error

A FORMER Lazards banker is favourite to succeed the disgraced Edith Cresson at the European Commission in Brussels. Anne Lauvergeon took over in 1991 from Jacques Attali as François Mitterand's right hand and was headhunted by the Paris office of Lazards four years later.

She does not seem to have enjoyed the experience and lasted about two years. Oddly enough, no one at Lazards today can think of much to say about the tenure there of someone who is about to become one of the most powerful women in France.

SHAREHOLDERS at Corporate Services Group have finally persuaded their board to stand down. One director is Tim Holland-Bosworth.

Back in 1992 Holly-Bolly, as he is known, was at Kleinwort Benson working for Alan Sugar in the latter's bid to take Amstrad private on the cheap.

Holly-Bolly upset the institutions when he admitted that Kleinwort stood to gain substantial fees if this was successful. Some unkind souls even suggested that this called the independence of Kleinwort's advice into question.

The coincidence has not been missed by some of those same institutional investors who find themselves ranged up against him again today.

Hurt feeling

HARVEY WEINSTEIN, one of the two star moguls behind Miramax, maker of *Shakespeare in Love*, came barrelling out of the Savoy yesterday surrounded by an asteroid belt of acolytes and flunkeys.

"Get me out of here!" Weinstein shouted to one. He then, quite unaware, swept past John Hurt, who was having a quiet coffee. Surely you remember *Alien? The Elephant Man?* They have short memories in Hollywood.

MARTIN WALLER
city.diary@the-times.co.uk



Harvey Weinstein: Brief non-encounter at the Savoy

Equities achieve record close

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

[illegible]

BANKS

[illegible]

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

[illegible]

BUILDING MATERIALS

[illegible]

CHEMICALS

[illegible]

CONSTRUCTION

[illegible]

DISTRIBUTORS

[illegible]

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

[illegible]

ELECTRICITY

[illegible]

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

[illegible]

ENGINEERING

[illegible]

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

[illegible]

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

[illegible]

HEALTHCARE

[illegible]

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

[illegible]

INSURANCE

[illegible]

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

[illegible]

LEISURE & HOTELS

[illegible]

MEDIA

[illegible]

MINING

[illegible]

OIL & GAS

[illegible]

OTHER FINANCIAL

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PHARMACEUTICALS

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PRINTING & PAPER

[illegible]

PROPERTY

[illegible]

RETAILERS, FOOD

[illegible]

RETAILERS, GENERAL

[illegible]

SUPPORT SERVICES

[illegible]

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

[illegible]

TRANSPORT

[illegible]

WATER

[illegible]

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

[illegible]

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

[illegible]

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

[illegible]

LONGS (over 15 years)

[illegible]

UNDATED

[illegible]

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of: 5% 3%

[illegible]

Source: FT Information

capa sell division or £329m n revamp



Pressac aims or takeovers

Barclays brot



CUT DOW

Scapa sells division for £329m in revamp

By Paul Armstrong

SCAPA GROUP, the manufacturer of industrial products, yesterday unveiled a comprehensive restructuring involving the £329 million sale of its core paper businesses and plans to off-load a second division.

The moves will enable Scapa to focus solely on its technical tape operations, for which it says that growth prospects are far brighter than those for its operations in the hard-hit paper industry.

Announcing the sale, Scapa said that the performance of its paper division, which generates more than half the company's profit, would have continued to deteriorate under its ownership.

The company expects the sale to fund a special dividend of 50p a share after eliminating the company's remaining debt of £130 million.

David Dunn, chief executive, said that Scapa also planned to sell its speciality materials division within a few months, possibly leading to a second return to its shareholders.

Mr Dunn said that the tapes businesses were generating a return on capital of about 30 per cent, compared with 15 per cent for the paper divison.

Scapa's paper division, which makes paper clothing for specialist industries and services the rolls in paper machines, was responsible for the company's initial development.

However, Mr Dunn said that the industry was suffering from excess capacity and needed to follow the pattern of consolidation adopted by its customers in the paper and packaging industry.

He said that Voith, the family-owned German paper company that is buying the businesses, was better placed to cope with the challenges facing the industry.

"This is a mature business, it is not a growth business," Mr Dunn said. "The paper companies want to do a better job for themselves and put price pressure on their suppliers."

Investors responded immediately to news of the payout, marking up Scapa shares by 27p to 144p.

The stock slid from 220p in June to a 12-month low of 90½p in January on the back of the tough trading conditions being suffered by the paper division.

Mr Dunn said yesterday that the environment remained difficult and was not expected to improve in the short term.

Shareholders will be asked to approve the sale on May 5, and the dividend is expected to be paid in early July.

Tempus, page 26





TONY ANDREWS

RUGBY ESTATES, the property manager and investor which has more than a third of its portfolio in London's Covent Garden, said the property market, especially in the capital, is at last showing signs of stability. The company chaired by David Tye, above left with Andrew Wilson, his chief executive, reported a more than doubling in pre-tax profits to £8.2 million, thanks largely to joint venture disposals during the year. For the 12 months to January 31 earnings per share came in at 30.7p (13.8p) and the company is paying total dividends for the year of 2.91p, a rise of 10 per cent. The net asset value rose 11 per cent to 211p per share. The share price, however, fell 8½p to 176½p.

Peter Black able to walk tall after 15% profits rise

By Matthew Barbour

PETER BLACK, the maker of toiletries, cosmetics and shoes, yesterday proved itself to be one of the few suppliers currently benefiting from close ties with Marks & Spencer after unveiling a 15 per cent rise in full-year profits.

The group, which specifically supplies shoes and accessories to M&S, also said that it expects trade with the retailing giant to increase over the coming year. A number of clothing suppliers to M&S, which issued a profits warning after a disastrous autumn, have announced job cuts. Peter Black, however, provides products in which M&S has only a 10 per cent market share, as opposed to clothing, where M&S has a share of up to 35 per cent.

Stephen Lister, chief executive, said: "We sell 45 per cent of our products to M&S, a figure we hope will grow. They can't and won't give more *space to clothing* and so we're in a totally different position to the textile people."

For the year to January 31, the group reported pre-tax profits of £21.8 million (£16.2 million) on sales up 13 per cent at £196 million.

Mr Lister said that as well as diversifying away from producing slippers and plastic bags, about 60 per cent of production is now sourced from outside the UK, with factories in India, Italy and Thailand.

Black's figures were also lifted by the inclusion of Ferrosan UK, a maker of herbal remedies, which contributed £18.5 million of sales. With interest cover of ten times and low gearing, Mr Lister said the group is on the lookout for further acquisitional growth opportunities.

On adjusted earnings per share of 23.6p (21.4p) there is a final dividend of 3.25p, raising the full-year dividend 10 per cent on a pro-rata basis.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Severn Trent calls for price increases

SEVERN TRENT has proposed a 5 per cent cut in water bills next year, but said that prices would have to rise over the following four to pay for the Government's clean-up programme. Severn Trent yesterday said that after an initial £11 off for the average customer, bills would have to rise by 1.5 per cent per annum above inflation from 2001 to 2005 to finance an investment programme of £2.3 billion.

The company, which supplies eight million people in the Midlands and Wales, said improvement work was needed at 65 water treatment plants and for the rehabilitation of 1,200 miles of water main. All the water companies are presenting business plans to Ofwat, which is due to respond by July, with a final decision on prices and funding by November.

Torday revives payout

LONG-SUFFERING shareholders in Torday & Carlisle are to receive their first dividend in seven years as the reconstituted company said it would be making a payout of 0.5p for the year. Torday, formerly an engineer, now sees itself as strategic industrial investment company — last year it raised £6 million in the market to finance small acquisitions and the taking of small stakes in undervalued businesses. The company made pre-tax profits of £1.34 million (£1.37 million) in 1998.

Mulberry warning

SHARES of Mulberry, the AIM-quoted luxury goods group, crashed further yesterday as it said that losses were likely to be worse than expected and that there will be no dividend. The company said: "Export sales in the last quarter have been *materially below expectations with difficult trading conditions* in Europe and the Far East." Analysts believe that losses for the year are likely to come in at £2.2 million. The shares fell 8p to 26½p, off from a high two years ago of 214p.

Cirqual still upbeat

CIRQUAL, the aerospace, telecoms and building engineer, struck an upbeat note yesterday despite reporting a 20 per cent downturn in pre-tax profits to £4 million at the interim stage. Tony Gartland, chairman, said: "While there have been selective price pressures, continuing improvements in efficiencies have reduced the overall impact." The company is paying an unchanged interim dividend for the six months to March 7 of 4.1p on earnings per share of 9.88p (12.01p).

P&O property sell-off

P&O, the company that recently said it is to concentrate on its shipping interests, yesterday reported that it had sold some US property assets for £53.9 million. The company said it had sold Lenox Park, an urban business park consisting of three office blocks plus land in Atlanta, Georgia, to BellSouth. P&O said the price was above the book value of the assets in the company's accounts. P&O sold other Atlanta property investments last year when it unwound its joint venture with Chelsfield.

Pressac aims for takeovers

By Robert Cole, city correspondent

PRESSAC, the telecoms equipment and automotive parts supplier, aims to make acquisitions to extend strong growth.

The company last year paid £62 million for G Cartier, a French auto-components maker, and held a rights issue to fund the deal. Huw Lewis, finance director, indicated, however, that Pressac was unlikely to seek to raise further equity finance to fund any deal. He said that interest rates are low enough to make debt a better source of finance.

At January 31, Pressac had debts equivalent to 82 per cent of net assets. However, the group said that gearing was at a peak. Mr Lewis added: "We have quite a bit of capacity in our balance sheet for debt."

Geoff White, chief executive, said that a purchase costing about £30 million would interest the group, but emphasised that there was no immediate prospect of sealing an deal.

The re-affirmation of Pressac's expansionist aims came as the company reported a rise in profits in its six months to January 31. Pre-tax profits were £5 million, up from £4.5 million, but Pressac incurred £1.7 million of exceptional charges in the period. Underlying operating profits were 50 per cent up, at £6.7 million. Most of the growth was attributed to the new contribution from G Cartier.

Earnings per share, including the exceptional cost, fell from 4.36p to 3.64p. The interim dividend is 1.14p (1.06p adjusted for the rights issue).

Tempus, page 26

Cannons shares shoot up

CANNONS GROUP, the fast-growing health and fitness club operator formerly known as Vardon, saw its shares gain 8½p to 197p on the back of an upbeat trading statement (Dominic Walsh writes).

At its annual meeting yesterday, Nick Irens, chairman, said that membership had risen 15 per cent to 82,000 in the three months to March 31, with growth coming both from existing and new clubs. He added: "The market for health and fitness continues to grow and the future for the group is exciting."

The sale of its attractions business, including the London Dungeon, has left the group cash positive and it is planning to invest £115 million over the next three years. Six clubs are scheduled to open in 1999 with another five in the pipeline for 2000.

US recovery helps Smurfit

By Paul Armstrong

SHARES of Jefferson Smurfit Group jumped nearly 13 per cent yesterday after the international packaging company unveiled a better than expected profit result and said that the US market would continue to drive a price recovery.

Smurfit reported pre-tax profits up 14 per cent last year to Ir£171 million (£145 million) on the back of a 12 per cent lift in sales to Ir£2.9 billion.

The strong result, and the prospect of further improvement, is some of the brightest news to emanate from the embattled paper and packaging industry over the past year.

Excess capacity in most markets has combined with the Asian economic crisis to squeeze margins as manufacturers compete for business.

However, Smurfit said yesterday that the US market should record a drop in net capacity this year and growth in global capacity would remain at, or below, 1.4 per cent.

The company said that the increasing strength of the market was highlighted by the price rises that were implemented in the US in February, which is considered a soft month for the industry.

A total dividend of Ir4.8p was declared, a rise of 3.6 per cent.

Analysts said that the outlook for Smurfit's share price was encouraging. "We have had a fairly positive trading statement for the first time in a long time and I think the stock will probably move ahead in the coming weeks," one analyst said. The shares closed 16p higher at 142p.

Barclay brothers set to sell Howard

By Dominic Walsh



London's Howard hotel, which is expected to fetch £38 million

THE Barclay brothers, whose interests include the Ritz hotel and *The Scotsman* newspaper, are poised to sell the Howard hotel in London to a US real estate investment trust (REIT) for £38 million.

The prospective purchaser is believed to be MeriStar, a so-called "paper-clipped" REIT that is listed on the New York Stock Exchange. It was created last year through the merger of American General Hospitality and CapStar Hotel Company, focusing exclusively on the hotel industry.

Speculation over the future of the 153-room Howard has swirled since the reclusive Barclay twins acquired the Ritz in 1995 for £75 million. The brothers are understood to have been canvassing interest for almost two years, although it is only recently that a deal has appeared likely.

Millennium & Copthorne Hotels is one of several groups to have expressed an interest in recent months. At its recent results, M&C admitted that it had been keen to acquire the four-star property but said that it had been put off by the price.

A spokeswoman for MeriStar said last night: "We are looking at a number of deals in London and elsewhere but we have nothing to announce." She admitted that the Howard was the type of hotel MeriStar might be interested in. However, she said that it was more interested in securing management contracts, possibly with a small equity investment, rather than outright acquisitions.

MeriStar is effectively two entities "paper-clipped" together and with shared directors. MeriStar Hospitality Corporation is the tax-efficient REIT, owning about 120 hotels in the US and Canada, many of them Hiltons and Sheratons. The operating company is MeriStar Hotels & Resorts, which manages more than 215 hotels, half of them owned by the REIT.

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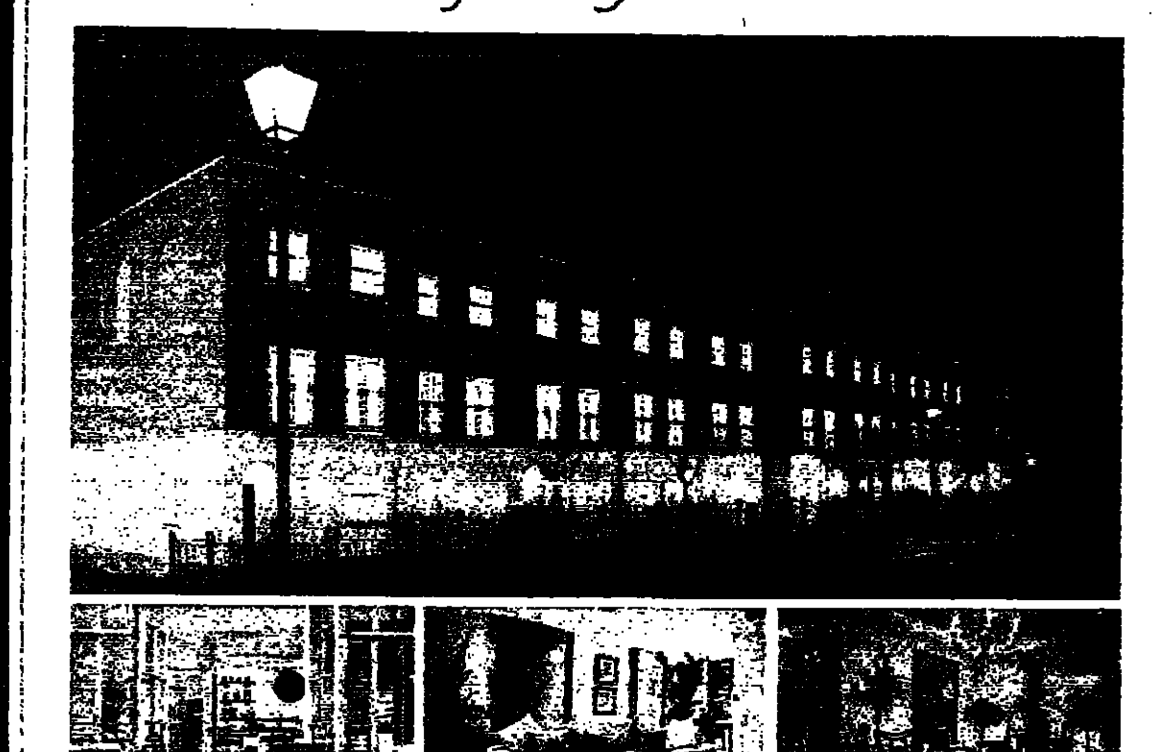
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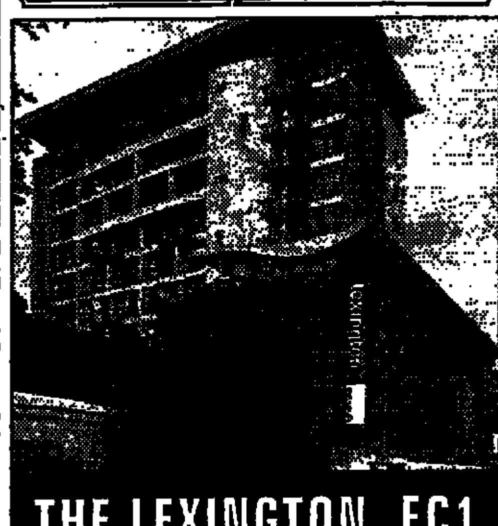
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Householders living on contaminated land are angry that they may have to pay for clean-up costs. **Senay Boztas** reports

Passing the buck on pollution


The steelworks that polluted the Victoria site in Ebbw Vale

Homeowners with properties built on contaminated land could find themselves liable for the cost of cleaning up the pollution under rules to be introduced later this year. The work may involve replacing the garden topsoil, or, in the worst cases of industrial pollution, treating the land with chemicals. Both options could involve considerable expense for owners who do not have insurance cover.

The rules, to be announced by the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions in July, are the latest attempt by the Government to clear up ambiguities about who should pay for pollution.

The rules will say that if the original polluter — be it a steelworks or chemical factory — no longer exists or cannot pay, the developer of the land is liable. But if local councils cannot make the developer pay, the homeowner must pick up the tab.

An official from the Department of the Environment did not know how many homeowners would be affected, but said: "Councils will make a distinction between those who bought their property at a discount because they knew the land was contaminated, and those who bought in good faith. However, there may be cases of homeowners having to pay something."

Land experts predict fierce legal battles between the Government and the original land polluters so that homebuyers do not end up with the bill. Developers, such as Berkeley Homes, say that any clean-up costs will be reflected in higher prices for new housing.

Gwyn Griffiths, a land director for the Welsh Development Agency, welcomes the changes. "It could be that the situation will improve because there will be a hierarchy of responsibility," he says. "But many of the original polluters have gone, so there is a risk for some people."

Laws about contaminated land were introduced only in the 1995 Environment Act. The Environment Agency estimates that there may be 200,000 problem sites in the UK on a total of 300,000 hectares. The pollution covered is both industrial — old asphalt sites and docks, for example — and natural, in the case of radon and methane gas.

Local authorities will be obliged to find and investigate all the sites in their areas from July.

The Department of the Environment says that the changes will protect homeowners more by putting big companies first in line to pay. But the Local Government Association, which promotes the interests of local authorities, is worried.

A spokesman says: "Changes to the Environment Act are long overdue and local authorities have an important environmental protection job to do. But with the new regulations it is very likely that legal disputes could bring work to a halt in many areas."

Not all homeowners will be insured against the costs of cleaning up land. But from this month, buyers of new properties on brownfield sites — those most at risk — will be protected by the National House Building Council. Houses registered for its Buildmark Cover after April 1 will be entitled to claim the costs of cleaning up land or, if this is uneconomic, of being bought out.

GUZELIAN


Colin McNichol near his home at Victoria Dock in Hull. He does not believe he should be liable for the cost of any unforeseen pollution

HUW EVANS

THE HOMEOWNERS

HOMEOWNERS threatened with the possible costs of clearing up contamination are furious and say that the Government should, in the last resort, have to pay.

Colin McNichol lives with his wife Lesley in the Victoria Dock development in Hull — an urban village built on the site of an old timber-importing docks.

Before the 1,300-home project could go ahead, the ground had to be raised by two metres, contaminated timber ponds drained and refilled, and gas membranes installed. Work by Belway Urban Renewal on the £17 million project will finish next year.

Mr McNichol paid £90,000 for his four-bedroom house in the early Nineties: it is now worth £100,000. He is happy with Belway's development and is confident that it is safe. But if further contamination comes to light, he says, it may be impossible to call to account many of the timber firms responsible because most probably no longer exist. "It should be the problem of the landowner and developer," he says. "If we had to pay, I would find it hard to square with the Government trying to encourage brownfields. And any risk should have been reflected in the price."

MICHAEL and Kay Twohig are also fearful of the changes. They live in Ebbw Vale, in a three-bedroom detached house on the Victoria development. They and their sons, aged two and seven, moved in ten months ago, paying £67,000.

The site, a former steelworks, has been cleaned of heavy metals only in the areas where the 180 Redrow homes are being built because larger-scale land clean-up would have been uneconomic.

Mrs Twohig says: "It was horrific here before, with slagheaps and the remains of works. But now living here is lovely and clean. It has been a dramatic change. But if we found we had to pay for work still to do, and with the polluters long gone, we would feel a sense of injustice. We paid the market price."

Sense of injustice: Michael and Kay Twohig with their sons

She believes that the Government must pledge to pay for cleaning up and give regeneration grants if it cares about developing brownfield sites. She adds: "It would even be unfair to shift the buck to the developer."

SMART MOVES

■ A COUNTRY mansion that has provided the setting for television programmes and films including *The English Patient* has been converted to 11 luxury flats. Wyfold Court, about six miles from Henley-on-Thames in Oxfordshire, was built in 1872 and designed by George Somers Clarke, a pupil of Sir George Barry, the architect of the Palace of Westminster. Among its attractions is a 430 sq ft stained-glass window that has taken nine months to restore. One flat has been sold by FPD Savills; two others have been reserved. Prices range from £700,000 to £1.5 million.

■ No 1 Cambridge Gate in Regent's Park has dropped in price by about £5 million since it went on the market last October for £15 million. The house has eight bedroom suites, six reception rooms, three kitchens, a library, study and a wine cellar. Its restoration is the culmination of a programme started by the Crown Estate 50 years ago to restore the war-damaged Nash terraces and villas of Regent's Park. De Groot Collis are selling the house for £9.75 million.

■ THE wartime home of Clark Gable is for sale in the village of Polebrook, near Oundle, Northamptonshire. He lived in The Gables, which is named after him, while serving at RAF Polebrook in the Second World War. The five-bedroom house dates back to the 17th century and is a Grade II listed building. For sale at £400,000 through Carter Jonas's Peterborough office, it has some original features, including inglenook fireplaces, timber-framing and oak casement windows.

■ A 16th-century manor once home to Sir Walter Raleigh is for sale at £285,000. The Grade II listed Manor House, at Modbury in Devon, was the home of Katherine Champernowne, who married Walter Raleigh of Fardel, Sir Walter's father. The house, being sold through Marchand Petit, has an adjoining two-bedroom cottage and a coach house.

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RETIREMENT HOMES

FEATURE

Ordering costs against non-party

Globe Equities Ltd v Globe Legal Services Ltd and Others
Same v Same
Kotrie and Others v Globe Equities Ltd
Globe Equities Ltd v Globe Legal Services Ltd and Another

Before Lord Justice Butler- Sloss, Lord Justice Morritt and Lord Justice Sedley

[Judgment March 5]

In determining whether a costs order should be made against a non-party pursuant to section 51 of the Supreme Court 1981, the test was whether in all the circumstances it was just to exercise the power.

While it would be unjust in the vast majority of cases to make such an order, it was not a pre-condition of the exercise of the power that the circumstances were exceptional.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment, dismissing an appeal by solicitors, Miller Gardner, against the order of Mr Justice Parker, sitting as Vice-Chancellor of the County Palatine of Lancaster in Manchester on June 6, 1997, that Miller Gardner, who were solicitors for defendants, should pay the plaintiffs' costs on an indemnity basis in respect of two successful actions against Globe Legal Services Ltd, Geoffrey Brian Miller and others.

The Court of Appeal dismissed the plaintiffs' cross-appeals against the judge's refusal to make similar costs orders in an unsuccessful third action brought against the plaintiffs by Mr Miller and others, and in a fourth action by the plaintiffs against Globe, Mr Miller and another.

The defendant, Mr Miller, was one of two partners in the solicitors' firm, Miller Gardner. The first two actions related to rent due under a lease of premises owned by the plaintiffs and occupied initially by Mr Miller and others in a former solicitors' firm, and subsequently by Miller Gardner.

Globe Legal Services was a company formed by Mr Miller and another to hold the lease and Mr Miller and others guaranteed its obligations.

The judge, upholding a district judge's order for summary judgment in the first two actions, held that, although not a party to the rent actions, Miller Gardner were the real defendants, that the actions were continued for the benefit of Miller Gardner in that the continuance of the litigation enabled them to remain in the premises for over two years without paying rent; and that the defences and counterclaims in the actions were hopeless.

Miller Gardner appealed the orders for costs. The matters arising on the plaintiffs' cross-appeals in the third and fourth actions are not reported.

Mr Gabriel Moss, QC and Miss Roxanne Ismail for Miller Gardner; Mr James Bonney, QC and Mr Jonathan Gavaghan for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE MORRITT said that the jurisdiction to award costs against a non-party was conferred by section 51(1) and (3) of the Supreme Court Act 1981: see *Aiden Shipping Co Ltd v Interbulk Ltd* ([1986] AC 965).

Counsel for Miller Gardner, basing himself on *Symphony Group plc v Hodgson* ([1994] QB 179, 192-193), submitted that the facts did not bring it within the category of exceptional so as to entitle the court to make the orders.

There appeared to be a danger of treating the requirement that the circumstances were exceptional as being part of the statute. It was not. The epithet originated in *Hodgson* case, but was based on what Lord Goff of Chieveley said in *Aiden Shipping* (at p980F):

"In the vast majority of cases, it would no doubt be unjust to make an award of costs against a person who is not a party to the relevant proceedings. But ... that is not always so."

"Exceptional circumstances" had not been elevated by the authorities into a pre-condition to the exercise of the power: nor should they be.

Ultimately the test was whether in all the circumstances it was just to exercise the power conferred by the Act to make a non-party pay the costs of the proceedings.

Plainly, in the ordinary run of cases where the party was pursuing or defending the claim for his own benefit through solicitors acting as such, there was not usually any justification for making someone else pay the costs.

But there would be cases where either or both those two features were absent. In such cases it would be a matter for judgment and the exercise by the judge of his discretion to decide whether the circumstances relied on were such as to make it just to order a non-party to pay the costs.

Thus the exceptional case was one to be recognised by comparison with the ordinary run of cases, not defined in advance by reference to any further characteristic.

In the circumstances, the judge was entitled to conclude that the case was exceptional so as to justify an order for costs against Miller Gardner.

Lord Justice Butler-Sloss and Lord Justice Sedley agreed.

Solicitors: Weightmans, Liverpool; Willan Bootland White, Manchester.

Serving noise nuisance notice

Budd v Colchester Borough Council

Before Lord Justice Swinton Thomas, Lord Justice Auld and Lord Justice Thorpe

[Judgment March 3]

A local authority was entitled under section 80(1) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to serve a notice simply requiring the recipient to abate the nuisance created by barking dogs without specifying the manner of abatement or the level of barking either which constituted the nuisance or which would be acceptable.

The Court of Appeal so held, dismissing the appeal of David Budd against the dismissal by the Queen's Bench Divisional Court of his appeal by case stated against the dismissal by Judge Rice at Chelmsford Crown Court of his appeal against the dismissal by Colchester Justices to dismiss his appeal against an abatement notice served on him by Colchester Borough Council on March 31, 1994.

Mr Gregory Stone, QC and Mr Jonathan Tod for Mr Budd; Mr David Holborn for the council.

LORD JUSTICE SWINTON THOMAS said that the notice identified the nuisance as "dog barking" and required him to abate the nuisance within 21 days.

Mr Budd kept six greyhounds. There were many complaints from the neighbours about the dogs barking, particularly in the early hours of the morning.

Section 80(1) of the 1990 Act provided the local authority with a choice. The local authority was required to serve a notice "imposing all or any of the following requirements" , namely "requiring the abatement of the nuisance" or "requiring other steps as may be necessary".

Depending on the circumstances, it was open to the local authority to take one or other course when serving the notice.

It was not difficult to envisage facts where it would be wholly unreasonable for a local authority to serve a notice merely requiring the recipient to abate the nuisance without stating the works or steps which the local authority required to be taken for that purpose, or where it was clear on the face of the notice that the notice itself required such works or steps to be taken.

Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council v Field ((1997) 96 LGR 151) was such a case. A rock face and a wall were in imminent danger of collapse on to some cottages and the notice merely required the owners of the rock face and wall "to abate the statutory nuisance".

It was clear from the notice itself that the only way the nuisance could be abated was by carrying out very extensive works of shoring up the wall and securing the rock face.

In those circumstances, Mr Justice Owen stated that the notice plainly required the execution of works and, accordingly, the works had to be stated in the notice.

In the ordinary way a local authority was entitled under section 80(1) to serve a notice simply requiring the recipient to abate the nuisance. It was a wholly appropriate course for the council to take in this case.

The barking of the greyhounds was a nuisance by noise to Mr Budd's neighbours. There were many ways in which he might abate the nuisance.

The most extreme would be to get rid of all six greyhounds, but that might well be an unreasonable requirement. A reduction in the number of dogs might abate the nuisance. Insulation of part of the house might be sufficient.

It might be possible to send the dogs to an animal training centre to cure the problem. However, it might well not be reasonable for the local authority to require Mr Budd to take that course, because he might not be able to afford to do so.

It was quite sufficient for the local authority to require Mr Budd himself to abate the nuisance in a manner which was the least inconvenient or expensive and the most acceptable to him.

Nor was it necessary for the local authority to state the level of barking which constituted the nuisance, or the level of barking which would be acceptable. Indeed, it would be impracticable for the local authority to do so.

The local authority was entitled to serve a notice requiring Mr Budd to abate the nuisance which involved reducing the level of barking so that it ceased to be a nuisance by noise.

Lord Justice Auld and Lord Justice Thorpe agreed.

Solicitors: Tilbrooks, Ongar; Mr John Cobley, Colchester.

Creditor cannot oppose variation

Raja v Rubin and Another

Before Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Lord Justice Clarke

[Judgment March 19]

A creditor who had waived his right to a dividend under an individual voluntary arrangement with a debtor could not oppose a subsequent agreement between the debtor and other creditors to vary the terms of the arrangement, despite the absence of any express provision for variation.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing, save for an appeal on costs which was allowed, an appeal by the applicant, Manish Raja, from a decision of Sir John Vinelott who held on May 8, 1997 that a five-year individual voluntary arrangement made by the second respondent, Stuart Goodman, and supervised by the first respondent, David Rubin, that as a creditor who had waived his entitlement to a dividend in the individual voluntary arrangement, he had no sufficient interest to justify proceedings challenging a proposed variation of the arrangement by agreement between the debtor and his creditors and that since he had no such interest be should pay costs on an indemnity basis.

Mr Victor Joffe and Mr Timothy Collingwood for Mr Raja, Mr Edward Bailey for Mr Rubin and Mr David Halpern for Mr Goodman

LORD JUSTICE PETER GIBSON said Mr Goodman, was a solicitor who had practised as a sole practitioner under the style Bowling & Co. Mr Raja and four other employees, had become partners in Bowling & Co without taking over the accumulated debts of the sole practice.

The Inland Revenue having petitioned for Mr Goodman's bankruptcy, he had entered into an individual voluntary arrangement with his creditors in January 1992. The agreement contained no power for it to be amended.

Under it, Mr Raja had waived any entitlement to a dividend on a debt of £63,000 owed him by Mr Goodman. Mr Goodman's partners were to make ex gratia contributions to the creditors.

In March 1996 all the creditors save Mr Raja had accepted an offer from Mr Goodman. Mr Raja had applied for directions under section 263(3) of the Insolvency Act 1986, claiming that any variation to the arrangement should be approved by all the creditors.

The judge could see no reason why all the creditors entitled to share in the proceeds of the assets brought into an individual voluntary arrangement should not agree to vary their rights, despite the absence of an express power to vary the arrangement.

It was not in dispute that the 1986 Act contained no provision for the variation of an individual voluntary arrangement once approved, although it was legitimate for an arrangement to contain a power of variation.

In the absence of such a power, any variation could not, in his Lordship's judgment, have effect as if it were made as a part of the original individual voluntary arrangement having statutory force.

But the statutory provisions did not compel the conclusion that it was not possible for those interested in a provision of an individual voluntary arrangement to agree a variation of that provision when no one else was affected adversely or at all.

There was no sensible reason why those whose interests were affected should not be free to agree an alteration to their rights and liabilities, though if a person's interest was adversely affected he could properly seek the intervention of the court under section 263(3).

In his Lordship's judgment, that position was no different from that obtaining under the general law where there was a multilateral contract. It was always open to some of the parties agree a variation of their rights as between themselves if they could do so without affecting the rights of the other parties.

The consensual variations only had force in contract. But the court when invited to consider what order or other direction to make need not shut its eyes to the fact of the relevant consensual variation.

Mr Raja's waiver had benefited the other creditors and had been made expressly conditional on acceptance of the individual voluntary arrangement.

But his Lordship did not accept that a condition was to be implied that those interested in the arrangement could not between themselves agree a variation. That implication could not satisfy any test of necessity. If Mr Raja had wished to make his waiver subject to further conditions he could have done so, but he had not.

As a creditor unhappy with the way the supervisor was approaching Mr Goodman's proposed variation to the individual voluntary arrangement, Mr Raja was within the categories of persons who could apply to the court under section 262(3).

The judge had been wrong to award costs on an indemnity basis against Mr Raja who had not acted improperly in availing himself of the opportunity presented by the Act to apply to the court. Costs should be on the standard basis.

Lord Justice Clarke delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Bowling & Co, Peckham; Edwin Coe; Ralph Davis.

Change of circumstances for reviewing price control

In re Medicaments and Related Classes of Goods

Before Mr Justice Buckley, Mr J. A. Scott and Mr B. D. Colgate

[Judgment March 11]

Before the Restrictive Practices Court could grant leave pursuant to section 17 of the Resale Prices Act 1976 for a review of an earlier decision as to whether a class of goods was exempt from the prohibition on resale price maintenance contained in the 1976 Act, it had to be satisfied that there was prima facie evidence of a material change in circumstances.

A change in circumstances was material if, taken on its own or together with other changes, it might have led the court to a different result.

The Restrictive Practices Court so held in a reserved judgment, allowing the application of the Director-General of Fair Trading for leave to apply to the court for an order under section 17 of the 1976 Act discharging the order of the Restrictive Practices Court that certain goods known as "Medicaments and related classes of goods" should be exempted goods for the purposes of the Resale Prices Acts: see *In re Medicaments Reference (No 2)* ((1970) 7 RP 267).

Mr David Oliver, QC and Mr Jon Turner for the Director-General; Mr Mark Cran, QC and Mr David Anderson for the Proprietary Association of Great Britain and the Proprietary Articles Trade Association.

MR JUSTICE BUCKLEY said that section 17(2) of the 1976 Act provided: "No application shall be made under this section except with the court's leave, and that leave shall not be granted except upon prima facie evidence of a material change in the relevant circumstances since the court's last decision in respect of the goods in question."

It would defeat the public interest if the court could not review its earlier decisions in the light of changing circumstances.

Applying *In re Cement Makers Federation Agreement (No 2)* ([1974] ICR 445, 452) and *In re Net Book Agreement 1957 (No 4)* ([1998] ICR 753), the words "relevant circumstances" referred to an essential part of the court's reasoning.

In the *Cement Makers* case, for example, Mr Justice Mocatta sought (at p448b et seq) sought to summarise the court's earlier reasoning by reciting the relevant findings before comparing them with the grounds put forward in support of the application which comprised the new factual situation.

His Lordship accepted the submission of Mr Oliver that in this context "material change" meant a change which, sensibly regarded, might have led the court to a different result. To do otherwise would involve the court in virtually a full assessment of the case, including the criteria set out in section 14 of the 1976 Act, at the leave stage.

"Prima facie evidence" meant evidence which, if not balanced or outweighed by any other evidence, would suffice to establish a particular contention.

Where the tribunal was granted a significant residual discretion, as it was by sections 14 and 17 of the 1976 Act, the precise standard of evidence required to establish a particular contention had to be left to the good sense of the tribunal. One result of the prima facie evidence test was that evidence from a respondent, however interesting, was unlikely to be helpful at the leave stage.

In 1970, the court had concluded that the removal of resale price maintenance from proprietary medicines would result in more chemists going out of business more quickly, reducing the number of outlets for both prescribed and proprietary medicines; further, that there would be a substantial loss of outlets for less frequently demanded proprietary medicines, all to the detriment of the public: see *In re Medicaments Reference (No 2)* (at pp310e et seq; 323d-g).

Evidence in support of the Director-General's application was largely to be found in *Material Changes in the Medicaments Market since 1970* published by the Office of Fair Trading in January 1998, which identified eight principal changes.

The court was obliged to consider them both individually and collectively, as two or more changes might become material if, taken together, they could affect the balance of detriment, albeit that one alone might not.

There was enough prima facie evidence of material changes for it to be in the public interest for the court to revisit the matter.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Cameron McKenna.

VISUAL ART

Kandinsky comes to the Royal Academy

PAGE 36

THE TIMES

ARTS

POP

Cranberries hit the comeback trail

PAGE 37



OPERA: Glyndebourne's new general director, Nicholas Snowman, has radical plans, as he tells **Richard Morrison**

Fasten your cummerbunds . . .

If you believe Sir George Christie — and after all, it is his home — the image of Glyndebourne as a picture-postcard pile where corporate fat-cats guzzle champagne and then snooze through operas is a wild invention of the tabloid press that is mysteriously repeated by nearly everyone else.

"Someone said to me the other day: 'If you removed the gardens and the picnic thing, you wouldn't be doing more than 50 per cent business'," he sniffs. "I did think the remark was churlish. Artistically, the festival is very serious. Our repertoire is highly adventurous, considering that we are unsubsidised. And our corporate supporters, who are always slagged off first, are the ones who buy most of the tickets for the most challenging repertoire."

Well, their thirst for musical exotica will surely be satisfied now. Nicholas Snowman has arrived, and if any English music administrator

> ‘Glyndebourne can do something about the museum culture afflicting the classical music world’

qualifies for the epithet "radical chic" it is Glyndebourne's new general director. Founder of Britain's top new-music ensemble, the London Sinfonietta; devout Pierre Boulez acolyte; champion of "themed festivals" and other mind-expanding jamborees as boss of the South Bank Centre in London . . . Snowman is unlikely to let Glyndebourne's pearls-and-Pimm's atmosphere deter him from his zealous mission to promote the new and the esoteric. "The classical music world generally is afflicted by museum culture," he says. "In opera that shows itself in the fixation on certain singers. That irritates and worries me, and I think Glyndebourne can do something about it."

So fasten your cummerbund, Corporate Man, you're in for a bumpy ride. Of course Glyndebourne has premiered several tough new works in recent years. And as Snowman points out, he inherits a newly commissioned Harrison Birtwistle opera from his predecessor, Anthony Whitworth-Jones. Called *The Last Supper*, it will take a "sophisticated, millennial look at Christianity", Snowman says. Indeed, it has already excited theological curiosity by increasing the number of those present at the Last Supper to 14. "As well as Christ and the Disciples there's a ghost, representing our generation," Snowman explains. The work goes on the Glyndebourne tour next year and comes into the festival in 2001.

That's not all on the Birtwistle front. Snowman also intends to revive the master's vast electronic opera, *The Mask of Orpheus*. "I have a thing about it," he says. Won't it eat up massive amounts of rehearsal time and budget? "That's what we are here for," he replies.

This is just the start of Snowman's shock-of-the-new assault on the Sussex Downs. He has commissioned the clever young English composer Thomas Adès to write a new opera for Glyndebourne in 2003. He considered it "obvious" to grab the British premiere of *What Next?*, a new mini-opera by Elliott Carter, veteran American composer of some of the 20th century's knottiest scores. And another uncompromising modernist, Peter Eötvös, has been co-commissioned by Glyndebourne and the Châtelet in Paris to write an opera on Tony Kushner's *Angels in America*.

Snowman says that he has received total support from Christie and Glyndebourne's board. "I have had complete liberty to go berserk. Last month the board approved my programme for the years 2001 to 2005, budgets included. I have also mapped out 2006 to 2010. They have said yes to the contemporary repertoire and everything else."

"Everything else" is scarcely less jolly. Glyndebourne will assemble a cycle of Monteverdi's three extant operas using period instruments, and embark on a "German Romantic" project, involving several 19th-century operas hitherto thought unredeemable. "My arrogant hope is that we will at last prove that Weber's *Euryanthe* and *Oberon* and Schumann's *Genoveva* are stageworthy," Snowman says. "To be pretentious, we want to reveal their 'deep structure' — the real drama behind the silly plots."

Even the stoutest Glyndebourne supporter, one suspects, may need to pack an extra bottle of fine Chablis into the hamper to cope with that lot. Snowman's German Romantic project is planned to lead to one thunderous summer of nothing *except* deeply meaningful Teutonic blockbusters, including *Tristan* and *Wozzeck*. "That's pencilled in for post-2005 and may prove impractical," he concedes.

Besides *Tristan*, he also plans an *Otello*. Both would be conducted by the mesmeric Valery Gergiev. Even so, isn't this taking Glyndebourne into epic Wagner and Verdi regions that are best left to bigger theatres? "But our *Otello* will be intimate, and our *Tristan* will be done as Wagner wanted, with lighter voices actually *singing* the lines," Snowman argues.

Snowman has hooked Simon Rattle to return in 2003 for *Idomeneo* (with Peter Sellars directing), and is negotiating with the glamorous maestro of Los Angeles, Esa-Pekka Salonen, to make his Glyndebourne debut. Mark Elder and David Atherton also feature in his plans. So what about the choice of music director to replace Andrew Davis, who leaves next year? "At the moment we are talking to many people, some of whom I have already named," Snowman says. "And I'm hoping that Yakov Kreizberg will also return here to conduct." But Snowman decided "pretty quickly" to dispense with the position of director of productions (currently Graham Vick).

Another change will involve the resident orchestras: the London Philharmonic will lose another opera each season to the period-instrument Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment. "The LPO has been very understanding," Snowman purrs. A new "international concert series" will begin in the opera house this Sunday with a piano recital by Mitsuko Uchida. And there are big changes in store for Glyndebourne Touring, the one part of the operation that receives Arts Council subsidy — though far less than it should, according to Snowman.

"I was outraged to find that we were getting a subsidy of £16 per audience member to tour, while Opera North and Welsh National Opera get more than £40. So we are negotiating to remedy that. We are also cutting costs for the 1999 tour, and reconstituting the touring repertoire to include more old favourites. The tour is haemorrhaging money that we need to make the festival programme exciting."

And exciting the Snowman years promise to be. Of course, as Christie points out, Glyndebourne has always pioneered new and neglected repertoire. "I think of Mozart before the war, then the Rossini comedies, Raymond Leppard's revival of Baroque opera, the Janácek cycle . . . our record speaks for itself."

Indeed it does. But with Christie (who turns 65 on December 31) passing the chairmanship of the family business to his son Gus on the first dawn of the new millennium, there is a distinct end-of-era aura around the old place now. "It will be a staggered handover," Christie promises. "I want the audience to feel comfortable with our future plans." Will they? It will be quite a test of Corporate Man's taste for adventure.

● *Mitsuko Uchida plays Beethoven and Schumann at Glyndebourne (01273 815025) on Sunday at 3pm*



ROY RILEY

Nicholas Snowman in the gardens at Glyndebourne: his adventurous repertoire plans for the next ten years have been greeted with "total support" by Sir George Christie and the Glyndebourne board, he says

A joyful noise unto the Lord



Apple? Serpent? No sign of these in Haydn's Garden of Eden. All is famously blithe and bonny in *The Creation*, Haydn's version of the biblical story; and it did not take long in Roger Norrington's punchy performance with the London Philharmonic for the proper spell of wonder to be cast. Chaos reigned eerily with drifting chromatic lines and lurching crescendos; the Creator switched on the light with that mega-watt C major blast; then, before we knew it, the 100-strong London Philharmonic Choir was touching the soul, in rapt praise of God's "new-created world".

There are hits and misses in the English words to Haydn's oratorio. "Despairing" seems weak recompense for the German *verzweiflung*. Yet the sheer directness of the English phrasing can lead us straight to the work's heart. "This world so great, so wonderful," Adam duets tenderly with Eve in the Garden of Eden. If only it were possible 200 years later to write music of such innocence, such certainty.

Norrington himself did everything possible to bring the humanist message home, driving the LPO's modern instruments according to period practice, highlighting their instrumental colours, floating the "secco" recitatives on the hard sound of a fortepiano. He encouraged us to applaud at will, and told us everyone was going to have a good time. Bass-baritone David Wilson-Johnson certainly did: he communicated directly as the archangel Raphael, making the most of the descriptive passages about flaky snow, finny tribes, flexible tigers and the creeping worm.

John Mark Ainsley's *Uriel* took longer to impress. But his tenor voice woke up once God invented the Sun and Moon — awesome sights rewarded by beautiful, clear enunciation. Fellow archangel Gabriel also sounded clear as a bell. Indisposition robbed us of Donna Brown, but Nancy Argenta was a fine alternative, shaping lines with sensitivity. And she alone made a virtue of the second interval, changing into a light green dress as large as a tree, billing and cooing as Eve with Wilson-Johnson's Adam.

Above, beyond and behind was the choir. They were splendidly vigorous, never swamped by the orchestra. Praise be to them and chorus master Neville Creed. And praise be to Norrington, who lived through the music, flinging his baton into the sky, flexing his knees and jiggling shoulders whenever the excitement got too much.

GEOFF BROWN

Outstand-in

CONCERTS

RLPO/Anissimov
Liverpool

Having lost the services of Gennadi Rozhdestvensky, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra found itself deprived also of the presence of his wife, Viktoria Postnikova, who was to have been the soloist in the same concert at the Philharmonic Hall. Oddly enough, bearing in mind that the major work in the programme was Shostakovich's Eighth Symphony, the conductor problem was the one more satisfactorily solved.

The original intention was to precede the Shostakovich with Mozart's Piano Concerto in E flat. Just about any Mozart concerto could have replaced it — any, that is, apart from the Violin Concerto No 1 in B flat, K207, which is a comparatively weak work and which needs the most persuasive advocacy if it is to make any positive impression. Daniel Hope, a young violinist more developed in technique than personality, would have been well advised to avoid it. His performance of the concerto was not lacking in style but, accomplished though it was, it would have been far more interesting if something in the material of the score had provoked a spontaneous reaction.

Alexander Anissimov, the replacement conductor, surely will come back to Liverpool in the near future. A pupil of (among others) Rozhdestvensky himself, he has a similarly fluent, if less eccentric, technique and he has authority. He also knows his Shostakovich. His interpretation of the Eighth Symphony was so naturally paced and so clear in its expressive intentions that there was scarcely one instance of doubt in an orchestral performance of sustained brilliance and emotional commitment. If he failed to fit every episode of the work into a coherent structural strategy, he certainly did not underestimate its dramatic content and he was no less effective in securing the intimate atmosphere proper to such contemplative moments as the cor anglais solo in the first movement or the magical entry of the horn in the fourth.

GERALD LARNER

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament:

Rebecca, Katharine and Helena Wood

Professions: Oboist, cellist, violinist.

Ages: 24, 22, 19.

Are they really a trio? They have played chamber music together since they were eight: their mother is a clarinettist, their father a violin-playing solicitor. Now they play together in concerts, and also follow solo careers.

And recitals? "We're not brilliantly matched from the point of view of repertoire. But we do make arrangements for oboe, cello and violin of Baroque pieces by composers like Quantz and Corelli, and intersperse them with duets. And we've commissioned a work specially for us from the young composer Christopher Wiggins."

Are they rivals in competitions? "We have entered competitions against each other, yes; but that helps rather than hinders! We're all really supporting each other." In 1992 Rebecca reached the woodwind finals of the Young Musician of the Year, and in 1996 Helena and Katharine also made it to the national finals.

Where are they now? Rebecca is freelancing after studying at the Royal Academy, the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts and the Guildhall School. She also plays in her own wind quintet, Quintessence, whose first CD is due in June. Katharine is completing her fourth year at the Royal Northern College and is then off to the US. Helena is in her second year at the Royal Academy.

Forthcoming dates? Next Tuesday they all play at the Queen Elizabeth Hall: violin, cello and oboe concertos by Mozart and Haydn with the London Soloists Chamber Orchestra. And on June 13 Katharine and Helena play the Beethoven Triple Concerto with pianist Freddy Kempf at Hertfordshire University. In the same concert, Rebecca will play the Strauss Oboe Concerto.

HILARY FINCH

A bit too much excitement

Freddy Kempf
Wigmore Hall

There are times when young Freddy Kempf seems the very embodiment of the Florestan/Eusebius dual personality which Schumann set up for himself: on the one hand, the passionate extrovert; on the other, the shy dreamer. In the six years since his being awarded BBC Young Musician of the Year, Kempf has made his mark with both the fearless strength and stamina of his playing, and the cultivated tone and intense listening of its reflective qualities.

No wonder, then, that he has focused on Schumann's *Carnaval* to lead his forthcoming debut recording; and that he chose it as the centrepiece of his sold-out recital on Sunday. And he can perhaps be forgiven for emphasising the polarity of the Florestan and Eusebius personalities: at times it seemed as if there wasn't much in between. Pierrot and Arlequin, Pantalon and Columbine were mawkish characters in the violence of their dynamic contrasts.

Kempf clearly took the name of the work at face value. This was a real carnival: at times vulgar, often intoxicated, and frequented as much by the Lord of Misrule as by its *commedia dell'arte* characters. Kempf is just 21 and he will, I hope, eventually look longer and deeper into the piece: at the moment his sheer excitement in it is palpable and dominant, and the work can surely take it.

Rachmaninov, though, cannot. He, too, wrote with both passionate ardour and deep inner melancholy. But the temperament and idiom are totally different, and Kempf made us insufficiently aware of the fact. He played the earlier, longer 1913 version of the Sonata No 2 in B flat minor, and his technique and extraordinary stamina were certainly up to its demands. But it didn't *sound* like Rachmaninov. Phrases and paragraphs were pushed ahead, rather than being fired by a sense of inner propulsion; and the pealing sonorities so characteristic of the composer tended to be lost in a welter of insufficiently selected and balanced voices.

Kempf was happier in the Beethoven Sonata Op 111 with which he bravely began the evening. Here his daring, and his excitement with sound in its own right, led to playing which recreated Beethoven's own sense of struggle in the first movement without compromising its structure. And his ease and simplicity in articulating and pacing the Arietta needed only a little more air and a little less pedal to be equally compelling.

HILARY FINCH

GALLERIES
Abstract pioneer at the RA

ARTS

GALLERIES
Who was John Tunnard?

The audacious dash to abstraction

VISUAL ART: Richard Cork finds

Kandinsky's reckless energy barely contained at the Royal Academy

Of all the painters who revolutionised art in the early 20th century, Vasily Kandinsky was the most headlong. With an audacity that still seems courageous, he decided to jettison all references to the world of appearances. Around 1912, Kandinsky embarked on a voyage into an abstract universe. That heroic journey, and the pictorial discoveries he made there, had a profound effect on the future course of Modernism. He was a liberator, and the finest exhibits from that period charge his Royal Academy exhibition of works on paper with an impassioned, surging energy.

Kandinsky took a surprisingly long time to arrive at such boldness. In his native Russia, he had studied law and was expected to enjoy an outstanding career as an academic teacher. But with a recklessness as vehement as his later pursuit of Abstraction, he rejected legal studies in 1896 and decided to train as an artist in Munich. Already 29, Kandinsky was older than his fellow-students. And for a while he followed a nostalgic course.

> ‘He became a man with a messianic mission’

The earliest exhibits in the RA show are fuelled by the urge to escape into fairytale fantasy. They resemble illustrations for children's stories. Sometimes he is guilty of an artfulness bordering on whimsy: in a preposterous sketch for a poster advertising a French brewery, a lavishly plumed lady pours beer into a froth-filled glass with risible theatricality. But other images from this difficult, formative period show a greater toughness. One picture in particular, a gouache and crayon work called *Night*, seems prophetic. At first, the blanched and melancholy maiden combing her undulating tresses in this mysterious scene appears to have strayed from a latter-day Pre-Raphaelite painting. In reality, though, she derives from an ancient Russian tale about Baba Jaga, a malevolent witch who extends a crooked blue finger from the right side of the gouache. Kandinsky shows her coaxing a small boy to leave his flaxen-haired sister and wander into the countryside. The moonlit flowers, trees and meadows are reduced to a sequence of simplified, fluently brushed forms. Barely identifiable, they announce the strangeness of the dream-like visions Kandinsky would soon place at the centre of his work.

In 1908, the year after *Night* was executed, he became more singleminded in his urge to overhaul the language of Western art. With Gabriele Munter, a young painter he had met during their student days in Munich, Kandinsky began spending his summers at Murnau in the Bavarian Alps. The sublime landscape helped to stimulate him, and before long he became a powerful force in the avant-garde groups then galvanising new German art.

By now in his forties, the Russian expatriate seemed an unlikely figurehead for innovation and revolt. Impeccably dressed, Kandinsky never lost the air of pedagogy he had acquired during his university days. But the work he now produced was the opposite of academic. Like the crusaders who impel their galloping horses forward in his 1903 gouache, he became a man with a messianic mission.

The equestrian image haunted his imagination, turning into the rider who hurtles across an impetuous colour woodcut called *Lyrical*. The contours of both man and mount, stripped of all superfluity, have become almost skeletal. Their dynamism reflects the spirit of The Blue Rider, a group dedicated to broadcasting radical initiatives in art through exhibitions and publications. Kandinsky, who had played the cello in his Muscovite youth, found enormous stimulus in music. He included Schoenberg's paintings in a Blue Rider show as early as 1911, and both men were heartened by the discovery of their shared concerns. Musical influences helped to convince Kandinsky that art should claim the freedom to detach itself from representing visible appearances. He wanted to go far beyond the surface of things, and acknowledged his debt to music by giving his 1913 book of coloured woodcuts the exclamatory title *Klange* (Sounds). The images within this exuberant album can be counted among Kandinsky's most joyful and unfettered achievements.

Kandinsky devoted much of his formidable energy to a series of ebullient images each called *Improvisation*. But some of the watercolours displayed here prove that even the most rapturous of his abstractions were underpinned by intensive preparation. *Study for Composition VII*, a seemingly impetuous canvas of 1913, shows how carefully he planned these eruptive images. The amount of elaborate calculation lying behind Kandinsky's major paintings of the period in no sense dilutes their exhilaration. The greatest oils he produced then are among the high points of 20th-century art, and no London gallery has ever mounted a substantial exhibition of Kandinsky's convulsive achievement during those years. But the 1913 *Watercolour with Red Spot*, a classic example of his work on paper, shouts out its forcefulness with overwhelming conviction from the Royal Academy's walls.

For all Kandinsky's wild modernity, these images derive much of their fervent power from his religious beliefs. His most influential theoretical defence of Abstraction, published in English in 1914, is titled *Concerning the Spiritual in Art*. And many of his works are obsessed with the Resurrection, the Flood or the Last Judgment. The prospect of an imminent apocalypse unleashed the most orgiastic side of Kandinsky's complex temperament. In common with other European artists, he became preoccupied with the notion that wholesale renewal would be attained only after equally thoroughgoing destruction.

> ‘His later work seems tasteful and bland’

Hence his uncanny ability, in some of these turbulent watercolours, to anticipate the annihilation that engulfed Europe in the latter half of 1914. Kandinsky welcomed the declaration of war at first, regarding it as a necessary purgative. But he was forced to leave Germany, first for Switzerland and then Russia. His art lost its overriding impetus during these years of exile. And the death at the Front of young painter-friends soon persuaded him to deplore the conflict.

Some of the images he produced in 1915 and the following year, most notably the fractured *Watercolour with Black Lines*, reflect a more tragic mood. His marriage to Nina Andreevskaya in 1917 was darkened three years later by the death of their young son Volodya. The ebbing of Kandinsky's experimental appetite is demonstrated by his alarmingly tepid and conventional *View of Moscow*, which lapses into the kind of feeble naturalism he had formerly abhorred. As for the militant artists who came to prominence during the Russian Revolution, they regarded Kandinsky as a bourgeois individualist.

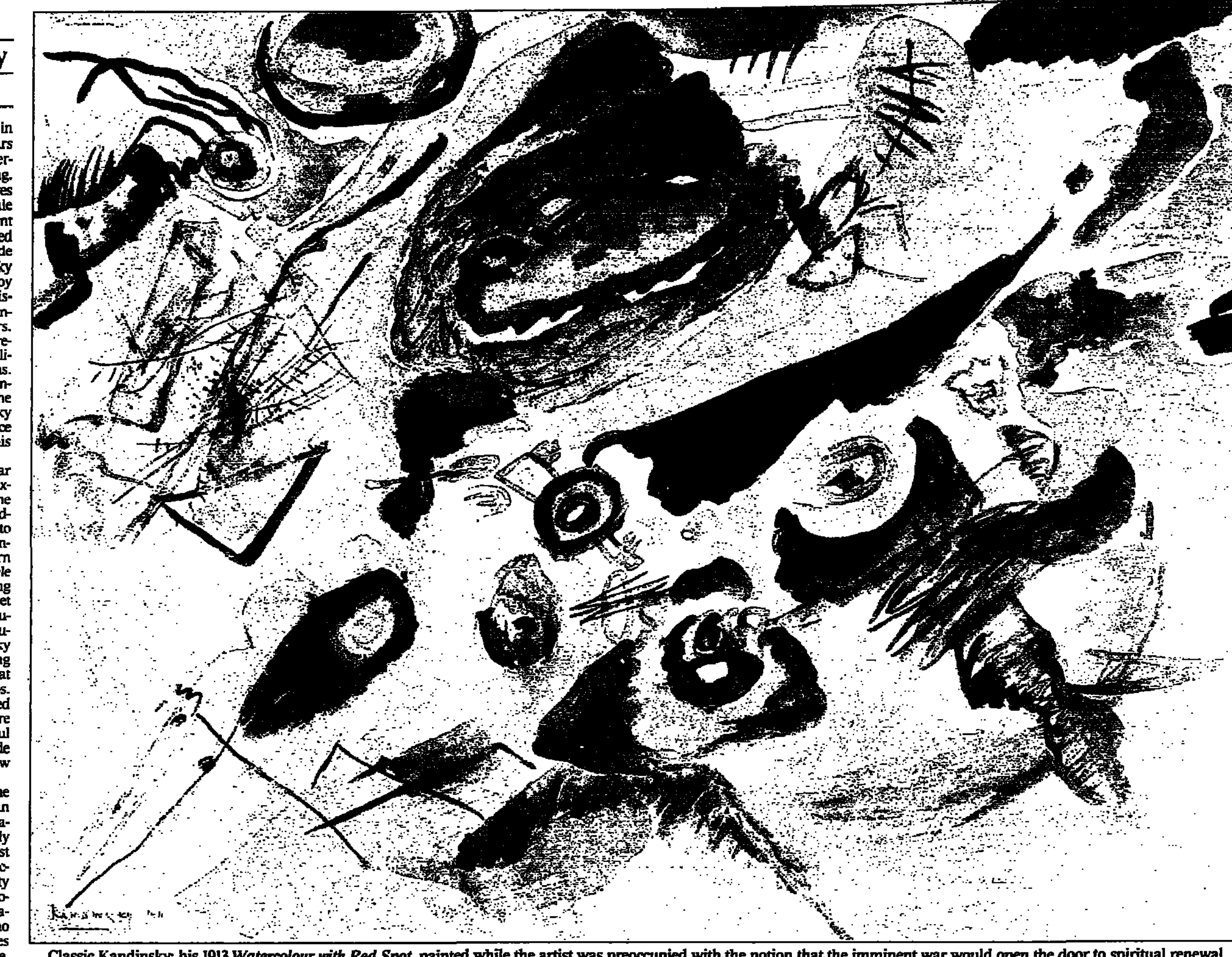
Their antipathy persuaded Kandinsky to leave Russia for good in 1921 and accept Walter Gropius's invitation to teach at the newly formed Bauhaus. The prospect of progressive art and architecture allying to forge a new society appealed to a painter who had always been fired by the idea of the *Gesamtkunstwerk*, a grand coming-together of the arts.

To my eyes, though, his work as a teacher had an increasingly detrimental effect on the art he produced. Kandinsky recovered his belief in the viability of Abstraction, becoming a prolific, thoughtful and inventive exponent of a language freed from the need to represent. But a new emphasis on neatness and geometrical order drains his work of its former dynamism. Heavily reliant on compasses and a ruler, he retreated from the impassioned, sensuous impulse dominating his finest prewar work. Kandinsky never succumbed to formula: a 1928 watercolour called *Weighing* is a new departure, setting circles and rectangles free to float in a cosmic equilibrium. It seems, however, tasteful and bland after his earlier risk-taking.

There is no sign, in the closing phases of the show, of an artist enjoying a supremely fruitful late phase. He continued to try new ideas, even after settling near Paris for the last decade of his life. But the apparent sprightliness of a work like the 1937 *Line with Accompaniment* cannot disguise its fundamental tidiness and caution. Kandinsky's yearning for apocalyptic renewal, which gave his earlier work its rousing ardency, had expired on the battlefields of the First World War. However diligently he tried afterwards, the old sense of adventure could never be fully recovered.

● *Kandinsky at the Royal Academy (0171-300 5760/1) until July 4*

DEUTSCHE BANK AG FRANKFURT/ADAGP PARIS AND DACS LONDON



Classic Kandinsky: his 1913 *Watercolour with Red Spot*, painted while the artist was preoccupied with the notion that the imminent war would open the door to spiritual renewal

AROUND THE GALLERIES

□ IT IS not for nothing that the catalogue essay for Spink-Leger's latest exhibition is headed "Who was John Tunnard?" **Tunnard** (1900-71) was in fact quite a figure in his day: he had connections with the English Surrealists and, later, the artists who gathered round Nicholson and Hepworth in St Ives; he did one of the most prominent and memorable murals in the Festival of Britain. But ultimately he saw things in his own terms, and never really fitted in with anybody. Hence, like Potworowski, he is impossible to pigeonhole, and still suffers for it, being not so much underestimated as unestimated.

The tide began to turn two years ago, with the publication of a major book on him, and this small but distinguished show should do nothing but improve his standing. The works in it date from between 1938 and 1969; none of them, oddly, from the period which seems particularly his, the Fifties. All of his works, indeed, look at a glance as though they belong to the Festival of Britain style, all spindly lines, streamlined shapes, and the excitement of television equalled only by the thrills of space flight. Many of his pictures have a faintly science-fictional air, with mysterious, almost abstract shapes hovering somewhere in outer space, parts of a new technology we vaguely recognise but do not attempt to understand. Thus the earliest paintings look like bold anticipations, the later curiously retrograde. But all, indubitably, belong to Tunnard alone. Like him or not, he is definitely an artist to be reckoned with.

Spink-Leger, 13 Old Bond Street, W1 (0171-629 3538). Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm, until April 23.

□ **Peter Ilsted** was the brother-in-law of Vilhelm Hammershoi. Which to many is probably like confidently announcing "For the Snark was a Boojum, you see". But if you know that Hammershoi was one of the great masters of the second Golden Age of Danish art in the 1900s, specialising in crepuscular interiors humming with a mysterious intensity, even though frequently unpeopled, then the connection makes a lot of sense. Ilsted was less mysterious, more human, and, to be honest, not in any way as good. But that is comparing him to a great artist, which he never claimed to be. In his own terms he has much to offer, especially in his mezzotints. Each print was individually hand-coloured, to beautiful, elusive effect. Lumley Cazalet also has some charming oils, but it is the prints that constitute Ilsted's most individual contribution.

Lumley Cazalet, 33 Davies Street, W1 (0171-491 4767). Mon-Fri 10am-6pm; until April 23.

Peter Potworowski (1898-1962) was one of those artists unfortunate enough to fall between two cultures — in his case Polish and British. It is surprising how often this makes a radical difference to an artist's standing and reputation: the fact of belonging wholly to no nationality in particular inhibits both sides from staking claims. Potworowski was born and began his training in Poland, left for Paris in 1924 and studied there under Leger, and did not return to Poland until 1930. When the Germans invaded he was forced to leave, arriving in London in 1943. In England he was an influential teacher, mainly at the Bath Academy, and exhibited widely, with the London Group and elsewhere.

In 1958 he moved back to Poland, but for the Poles he was never really a Pole, and in Britain his reputation trailed off when he was not there to nurture it. Fortunately now we have a major rediscovery show, consisting mostly of his later British oils and watercolours. He paints people in landscapes or interiors, with a unique delicacy of colouring, unifying all elements into patterns of subtle harmony. He appears to have been influenced a little by Bonnard, on whom he was an expert, but the final effect is totally different. If a painter who fits into no pigeonhole can be tolerated, he thoroughly deserves a second look.

Connaught Brown, 2 Albemarle Street, W1 (0171-408 0362). Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-12.30pm, until April 30.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR





■ LISTINGS

Rocky Horror returns

ARTS

■ JAZZ

The laddish Sex Mob

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

LONDON

SUDDENLY LAST SUMMER: Sheila Gish plays the venomous mother and Rachel Weisz the traumatised wife in the famous Tennessee Williams shocker. Sean Mathias directs.
Comedy (0171-369 1731). Opens tonight, 7pm.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS: In a gala concert jointly marking Neville Marriner's 75th birthday and the 40th anniversary of the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, the conductor leads his vibrant orchestra in masterpieces spanning three centuries. Mozart's Haffner Symphony is followed by Britten and Mendelssohn.
Festival Hall (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 7.30pm.

THE NEW ROCKY HORROR SHOW: Jason Donovan plays Frank'n'Furter. Perhaps the show has improved since its Birmingham opening last year.
Victoria Palace (0171-834 1317). Opens tonight, 8pm.

MAHLER THE SPECTACLE: Daniele Gatti conducts the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in tonight's instalment of this extensive survey of major works by the Austrian Romantic. Here the Sixth Symphony follows the *Ruckert Lieder*, sung by the charismatic baritone Vladimir Chernov.
Albert Hall (0171-589 8212). Tonight, 7.30pm.



Vladimir Chernov sings Mahler at the Albert Hall

ELSEWHERE

CAMBRIDGE: The exciting collaboration between the Norwegian saxophonist Jan Garbarek and the Hilliard Ensemble forges ahead. To coincide with the release of their new CD, *Mnemosyne*, the musicians kick off a world tour with a concert here featuring music from the project.
King's College Chapel (01223 357851). Tonight, 8pm.

EDINBURGH: *Begin Again* is a new David Harrower play, set in 1948. Could a murder behind a dance hall have happened any other way?
Traverse (0131-228 1404). Opens tonight, 7.30pm.

POOLE: The violinist currently known merely as Kennedy joins the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra under Andrew Litton in a concert featuring two pre-war British pieces. Kennedy performs Elgar's Violin Concerto followed by Walton's First Symphony.
Arts Centre (01202 685222). Tonight, 7.30pm.

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London
■ House full, returns only ◪ Some seats available □ Seats at all prices

◪ **CANDIDE:** Great songs in Bernstein's musical drawn from Voltaire. John Caird and Trevor Nunn direct an excellent cast led by Daniel Evans, Alex Kelly and Simon Russell Beale.
Olivier (0171-452 3000).

■ **MAMMA MIA!:** Musical based on the songs of Abba: Siobhan McCarthy and Lisa Stokke play mother and daughter on the eve of the girl's wedding. Phyllida Lloyd directs.
Prince Edward (0171-447 5400).

□ **THE GIN GAME:** Dorothy Tutin and Joss Ackland play old folk in a retirement home whose card-playing styles echo their sad lives. Frith Banbury directs a surprising Pulitzer Prizewinner.
Savoy (0171-836 8888).

□ **THE PRISONER OF SECOND AVENUE:** Richard Dreyfuss and Marsha Mason make their British stage debuts in Neil Simon's play about big city angst.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket (0171-930 8800).

■ **GOOD:** C.P.Taylor's best play, tracing a liberal professor's gradual descent into working with the Nazis. Charles Dance heads a strong cast. Michael Grandage directs.
Donmar (0171-369 1732)

□ **THE COLONEL BIRD:** Bulgarian author Hristo Boytchev's award-winning play about an asylum taken over by the lunatics. Rupert Gould directs.
Gate (0171-229 0706).

□ **BLOOD KNOT:** Barry Wallman and Gordon Case star in Athol Fugard's updated version of his celebrated black and white brothers play.
Riverside Studios (0181-237 1111).

□ **TALES OF A CITY:** Life after a catastrophe, told as a mixture of dreams and memories by Macedonian writer Goran Stevanovski. Sandy Maberley directs for Theatre Melange.
Warehouse, Croydon (0181-680 4060).

□ **GROSS INDECENCY:** The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde: Michael Pennington plays Wilde in Moises Kaufman's play.
Gielgud (0171-494 5065).

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

A CIVIL ACTION (15): Meaty courtroom drama with John Travolta and Robert Duvall in sparkling form as two sharks in a case about toxic dumping. Steven Zaillian directs.

BEDROOMS & HALLWAYS (15): Playful romantic comedy about male bonding with Simon Callow splendidly miscast as a heterosexual New Age Svengali. Rose Troche directs.

NO (15): Robert Lepage's supple, black comedy forms a psychedelic chain of coincidences between a Canadian actress and her bomb-making boyfriend. A teasing puzzle about politics and art.

THE FACULTY (15): Fishy sci-fi chiller with high comedy quota from Kevin Williamson. A faculty of schoolteachers get taken over by alien squids from outer space. Director Robert Rodriguez flogs the creeping paranoia with seat-clutching wit.

SLAM (15): Saul Williams puts in a sensational performance as a black rap poet caught up in the Washington prison system. A gritty documentary-style film by Marc Levin.

HIGH ART (18): Ally Sheedy and Radha Mitchell spread lesbian gloom and doom in an upmarket photographic magazine. Drugs, decadence, and Fassbinder fail to illuminate Lisa Cholodenko's constipated melodrama.

ORGAZMO (18): Tube station elevators are more exciting than this ghastly cartoon spoof on the Hollywood porn industry. Trey Parker writes, directs, and stars.

CURRENT

TEA WITH MUSSOLINI (PG): Flashes of dry humour illuminate Zaffirelli's tribute to the English spinsters who raised him in Florence before Mussolini jailed them. With Maggie Smith, Joan Plowright, and Judi Dench.

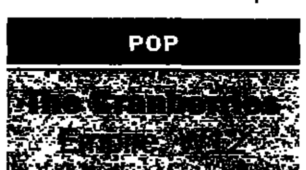
PLUNKETT & MACLEANE (15): Jake Scott's 18th-century swashbuckler is mildly amusing if you like being mugged. With Robert Carlyle and Jonny Lee Miller.

BLAST FROM THE PAST (12): An ingenious comedy about a man (Brendan Fraser) released after 35 years in a nuclear bunker. Bill Kelly directs.

THE NIGHT OF THE HUNTER (12): Charles Laughton's only stab at directing is a Tom Sawyer versus Sweeney Todd nightmare. Robert Mitchum's crooked preacher is unforgettable. A classic 1955 fear movie.

Hoist by their own bombast

POP



It was a crucial test of public taste and critical forgiveness when the Cranberries played their first full show for more than two years at the Shepherds Bush Empire on Monday. Dormant since their third album, *For the Faithful Departed*, earned relatively poor sales and merciless reviews in 1996, the Irish foursome who have notched up album sales of nearly 30 million made this low-key concert the first step in their comeback campaign.

In the spiralling, hiccuping, piercing yodel of singer and lyricist Dolores O'Riordan, the Cranberries can lay claim to one of the most original and emotive voices in pop. But O'Riordan is also responsible for some of its most monumentally crass lyrics, veering from exquisite to excruciating with alarming regularity.

The good news is that this wholesome Limerick quartet have partially rediscovered their melodic, folkish roots on their archly titled new album, *Bury the Hatchet*. The bad news is that they did not quite manage to incorporate this shift back towards subtlety in the cramped confines of the Empire. A newly blonde O'Riordan seemed to be locked in stadium-rock siren mode for much of the 90-minute set, prowling the stage and punching the sky as she roughly manhandled brittle anthems which deserved far more care and compassion.

Admittedly there were moments of beauty amid the bluster, including early airings for the sparkly acoustic gems *Ode to My Family* and *Linger*. These remain O'Riordan's most personal lyrics, pre-fame compositions which lack the formulaic ring of more recent efforts, and even her faltering voice could not entirely erase their quiet majesty. At least one number from the new album, the tremulous lullaby *Saving Grace*, tapped into a similar mood of sparse serenity, but otherwise the singer made little emotional connection with an expectant crowd.

The remainder of the set alternated between anodyne new material such as *You and Me* and *Delilah* and foot-stomping, chest-beating tantrums which gave full rein to the band's least attractive qualities. Nor was there much evidence in either the recent single *Promises* or the new album track *Desperate Andy* that the Cranberries have evolved beyond bludgeoning half-tunes and clumsy sloganeering.

The foursome ended this unsatisfying comeback show without reclaiming much ground from their detractors, leaving behind a vague sense of opportunity squandered. They may no longer embrace mid-Atlantic stadium-rock banality quite as unequivocally as they did a few years ago, but they also appeared equally uncomfortable with the mellifluous ballads which brought them recognition in the first place. Hence the encore revival of their earliest hit, *Dreams*, a once elegant shimmer now curdled into something lumpen and uncouth.

Their forthcoming world tour may revive the old spark, but for now the Cranberries seem stranded between the sublime and the ridiculous, milking a limited repertoire of weary vocal tics and increasingly graceless melodies.

STEPHEN DALTON

ANGELA LUBRANO



The newly blonde Dolores O'Riordan gets even further away from her roots at the Empire

When you're cool you're hot

Echo and the Bunnymen
UEA, Norwich

It is 20 years, almost to the month, since Echo and the Bunnymen released their first record, ten years since the band split up and two years since they reformed. It is a familiar rock story, one that usually ends unhappily in a misalliance of cynicism and nostalgia. But Echo and the Bunnymen seem to have defied convention. Their acclaimed new album, *What Are You Going To Do With Your Life?*, signals an imaginative change of direction, in which youthful bombast makes way for a bruised vulnerability. Singer Ian McCulloch is even Man of the Month in *GQ* magazine.

Strangely, perhaps, the new record forms only a small part of their current live show. Its gentle tunes are left until a third of the way through. Then *Baby Rain*, with its soothing melody and piano trills, stands in stark contrast to the guitar-driven rock of the opening numbers, with their debt to the Doors and the Velvet Underground. The set rewards loyal fans with past glories from the Bunnymen catalogue: the wailing guitar of *The Cutter*, the melodrama of *The Killing Moon*. Although only McCulloch and guitarist Will Sergeant remain from the original line-up, they are not just recycling the past. The lightshow is a lavish affair, mixing bright flashes, sparkling cascades and soothing swirls. Dry ice billows across the stage.



Hecklers beware: Ian McCulloch is back

For all this, the focus of attention is McCulloch, as moodily cool as ever. Dressed in black leather jacket and shades, he exudes a supreme self-confidence. He said little until towards the end of the band's UEA gig, when a heckler started to rile him. In the last number, *Do it Clean*, McCulloch began to taunt his critic, reeling off lines of abuse in a deep Liverpool accent, between extemporising another verse and mimicking James Brown's *Sex Machine*. It gave the performance a brooding, tense finale.

There was one moment, though, when the cool cracked. It happened when McCulloch sang the title track from the new album. He seemed to be addressing the audience, like a concerned parent pleading with a dissolute teenager, but what made it touching was the realisation that he was asking the question of himself too — and that he doesn't know the answer.

They may not have achieved the pinnacles of their contemporaries (they were once bracketed with U2), but Echo and the Bunnymen are surviving pretty well — older, wiser, confused.

JOHN STREET

Warp factor four

As their name suggests, Sex Mob occupy the more irreverent — not to say downright laddish — reaches of the jazz spectrum. To the genre-hopping restlessness and hard-edged irony customarily associated with New York's Downtown scene they add a funky edge that makes their music instantly accessible. But even when they're *playing material by Prince or* Smashing Pumpkins their jazz credentials are obvious. After all, the band's leader, slide-trumpeter Steven Bernstein, has contributed his unique sound to the music of Carla Bley and the New York Composers' Orchestra — as well as to the grungy organ-centred sound of Medeski, Martin and Wood. So he is just as happy to explore the cultured elegance of Duke Ellington as the tight *funk of Sly Stone*.

The quartet began their first set with a relatively simple riff from bassist Tony Scherr, soon augmented by the snappy drums of Kenny Wollesen

JAZZ

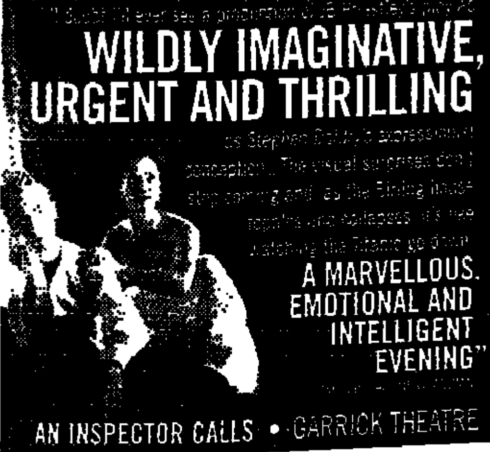
Sex Mob
Pizza Express W1

before alto saxophonist Briggan Krauss joined Bernstein in a wailing free-for-all over the pounding beat. Such simplicity — straightforward rhythmic riffs culminating in musical mayhem — formed the basis of the band's approach through both their subsequent sets, but the apparently uncomplicated nature of their sound concealed a mass of improvisational adroitness and considerable subtleties of dynamics and texture.

Much of this subtlety had its source in Bernstein's alternately woozy and strident trumpet playing, and in its contrast with Krauss's raucous abrasiveness, but a good deal was attributable to Wollesen. Scraped cymbals, added to Krauss's forays into stuck-pig squealing and Bernstein's smeared braying, brought an almost *painful* edge to Sex Mob's music at times, and the moaning sounds Wollesen produced from his rubbed drumskins took the New Yorkers' music about as far from the article usually referred to by the term acoustic jazz as it is possible to go.

The likes of *Goldfinger*, all dramatically smoochy trumpet and breathy alto, and a thundering visit to the Stones' *Ruby Tuesday*, proved perfect showcases for the band's irreverence, but it was their casually borne jazz-honed virtuosity that lifted Sex Mob's unequivocally enjoyable music way beyond the realms of rude posturing suggested by their somewhat unfortunate name.

CHRIS PARKER



ATHLETICS: LONDON MARATHON GIVES HAILE'S OLDER BROTHER OPPORTUNITY TO QUALIFY FOR OLYMPIC GAMES

Gebrselassie seeks capital gain

By David Powell, Athletics Correspondent

THE Olympic champion will be on the starting line, so too will the world record-holder and the world champion. Yet, when the Flora London Marathon unfolds on Sunday, the athlete with the name that carries the greatest weight in distance running today — Gebrselassie — will not be up at the front. Or, at least, his coach hopes not.

Tekeye Gebrselassie, the older brother of Haile, makes his *first appearance in the London* Marathon in an attempt to earn selection for the Olympic Games. Peter Kortekaas, his coach, does not doubt that the lesser-known Gebrselassie should achieve his aim. If only he remembers that he is not Haile.

> In next week's *Times*, a full list of all the finishers *in the London Marathon*

"Run cautiously and qualify," Kortekaas will tell him, "or go too fast and blow your opportunity." Not that Kortekaas is confident that his man will listen. Tekeye carries the weight of his brother's reputation with him. "Everybody says he is the brother of Haile and you can see it in the race. He goes off too fast."

The coach has set his athlete *the task of breaking* 2hr 11min 30sec, the Dutch qualifying time for Sydney 2000. While Haile remains the pride of Ethiopia, his brother acquired Dutch citizenship last year. "The *important* thing is for him to qualify for the Olympics," Kortekaas said. This he *should achieve, according to* Kortekaas, provided that he does not go off with the pacemakers with all the daring that has spirited his brother to 15 world records on the track.

"I would like to be there on a bike to keep an eye on him," Kortekaas added. "Like most Africans, you talk to him and say 'start easy, go in group two or three' and after the the first kilometre, you find him in group one. That is why I am careful to say what time he could run. I think he can run faster than 2hr 11min 30sec, but I am afraid he will start too quickly."

Haile Gebrselassie has run a marathon, but Tekeye holds the family record. Five years ago, in the Eindhoven Marathon, he ran 2hr 11min 45sec, while his brother's best is 2hr 52min, which he ran when he was aged 16. It is a marathon that Haile prefers to ignore: "My first marathon will be in *Rotterdam in 2001*," he has said.

Rotterdam is where you would expect Tekeye to be on Sunday, when the Dutch put on their marathon of the year. The flat course has proved to be an attraction for athletes seeking fast times and only last year Tegla Loroupe, from Kenya, set the women's world record there. Yet Kortekaas has put Gebrselassie on to the slower London course.

"In Rotterdam, all the other Dutch runners will be there trying to get the Olympic qualifying time," Kortekaas said. "Some will start fast and, for *Tekeye. London will be quiet*, away from the publicity and pressure." That is being shouldered this week by Josiah Thugwane, the Olympic champion, from South Africa, Ronaldo da Costa, the world record-holder, from Brazil, and Abel Anton, the world *champion, from Spain.*

When Gebrselassie, 28, came to Great Britain for the world half-marathon championships in 1992, he set a fashion for seeking political asylum away from Ethiopia after races in Britain. Three years later, *three of Gebrselassie's compatriots sought refuge in* London the day after racing in the world cross country championships in Durham.

Only last month, two more Ethiopians deserted the team when the world cross country championships came to Belfast. "He does not like to talk *about it, but he was supposed* to go into the Army and that was not what he wanted," Kortekaas said. In the year that Tekeye deserted Ethiopia, Haile was winning double gold at the world junior championships and his emergence *as an athlete of distinction over the next two years*, together with the country's political changes, spared him the call from the Army.

For the past four months, Tekeye has been training with Haile in a small group of elite African athletes, just outside Addis Ababa. "It has been *good for him to be home training* with good runners. Tekeye lives in Holland and has a Dutch passport, but he still feels that Ethiopia is home," Kortekaas said. "He trains twice a day and lives only for running. He is always looking at his brother, seeing what he has done. He wants to do that, only in the marathon."

Tekeye had better jump to it, because time is not on his side. Haile takes up the distance in two years from now, when we may see the two-hour marathon move within reach.



Da Costa, the world record-holder, will be one of the favourites to win the London Marathon. Photograph: Gill Allen



WEBSITE: www.london-marathon.co.uk — official event site
TELEVISION: Sunday, BBC1, from 8.45am



Thugwane: champion

RUGBY UNION

Offers flood in for Quinnell's robust service

By Mark Souster

CRAIG QUINNELL will have no shortage of new employers from which to choose should he decide to leave Richmond when his contract expires this summer. Quinnell, 23, who played for Wales against England at Wembley, on Sunday, has been inundated with offers from clubs in England, Wales and France.

Mike Burton, Quinnell's agent, confirmed interest from Gloucester, Harlequins and Bristol, of the Allied Dunbar Premiership, Llanelli and Pontypridd, in Wales, and Bourgoin, of France. Burton said: "Although he is under contract at Richmond, because of the situation there with the administrators, he will be a free agent if things are not sorted out in the summer."

Bourgoin have made the firmest offer to date, but one wonders whether Quinnell would want to play in France. If he has to leave Richmond, where is is said to be happy, he might opt to follow Scott, his brother, back to Llanelli.

One club that has not yet entered the bidding is Cardiff, whose chief executive, Gareth Davies, confirmed he is leaving the club at the end of June to concentrate on his new role as chairman of the Sports Council for Wales. Davies has been at Cardiff for five years and has been at the helm during the recent stand-off with the Welsh Rugby Union. He said yesterday: "It has certainly been a great experience. There have been many ups and downs, but I would like to think that Cardiff has played its part in moving the professional game forward."

Neil Jenkins, whose goal-kicking denied England a grand slam in the Five Nations Championship, will undergo a long-delayed shoulder operation today, which means that he will miss Pontypridd's match against Ebbw Vale tonight. His place goes to Ceri Sweeney, 18, the top scorer for Wales Under-19 in the recent FIRA tournament.

Colin Charvis, who was injured in the tackle by Tim Rodber that later led to Wales's match-winning try on Sunday, is doubtful for Swansea's SWALEC Cup semi-final against Cross Keys this Sunday. Charvis has a suspected fracture of the cheekbone which, if confirmed, will sideline him for a month.

Although Wales's victory ensured that Scotland won the championship at England's expense, Jim Telfer, the Scotland coach, believes that Clive Woodward's team has the necessary qualities to win the World Cup. "Winning the competition is a realistic expectation for England and France if they can sort themselves out," Telfer said. "England have used the Five Nations as a stepping stone. They have already beaten South Africa and they win when it really matters."

Despite the remarkable turnaround in their fortunes, Telfer plays down Scotland's chances this autumn, despite having home advanatge in the pool matches. They start with a match against South Africa, the world champions, at Murrayfield, on October 3.

"South Africa will be coming off the back of the Tri-Nations Series and, once they get on to the world stage, they are very difficult to beat," Telfer continued. "We have improved since the autumn, so I am expecting a cracker." His one concern is the serious injury to Eric Peters, *who is not* expected to be fit until September after breaking a knee cap. "I hope the doctors are right and he will be ready by then, but he will be pushing it a bit to make the two pre-tournament games against Argentina," Telfer said.

Nigel Wray, who stepped down as chairman of Nottingham Forest Football Club this week, has reiterated his continued support for Saracens. "They are my first love," he said. "Rugby union is a game I played for 30 years. I will see the job through there."

Pat Howard, now based in England, may get a call-up to replace Stephen Larkham, the injured Australia fly half. Rod Macqueen, the coach, said yesterday: "Pat is an option, there's no doubt about that. He's playing for Leicester, but he's still available to play for Australia."

However, Macqueen is also pleased with the progress of two other fly halves — Christian Warner and Nathan Spooner, of New South Wales and Queensland respectively. If their Super 12 form remains strong, they should get the nod ahead of Howard.

Austin Healey, who ended an eight-week suspension by sitting among the England replacements for the international against Wales last Sunday, will return to action this evening in the hope of returning to the Leicester XV to play Saracens in the Allied Dunbar Premiership on Saturday. Healey, who was banned after a stamping incident concerning Kevin Putt, of London Irish, will play for the Leicester second XV against Loughborough Students.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Five bid for Steelers' stock

■ **ICE HOCKEY:** Ian Taylor, the chief executive of the Sekonda Superleague, has revealed that five potential buyers are ready to take over Sheffield Steelers, who went out of business yesterday. Taylor is to investigate the business credentials of all the prospective new owners of a club, whose financial problems have finally taken their toll.

■ **ATHLETICS:** Overseas competitors who train in Australia leading up to the Olympic Games in Sydney next year will be subject to the same drug tests as Australian athletes. Natalie Howson, the chief executive of the Australia Sports Drug Agency, said: "We won't be a safe haven for drug cheats."

■ **SAILING:** The attempt by Azhar Mansor, of Malaysia, to set a record for sailing solo around the world has ended after 69 days. His yacht's mast snapped in three pieces near Cape Horn yesterday. He set out on his journey of 26,100 nautical miles from Langkawi, a Malaysian island, on February 2.

■ **GOLF:** Lee Westwood's post-tournament celebrations at the Masters caused him to miss his flight to his next tournament, the Macau Open, which starts tomorrow. Westwood's 20-hour journey will hardly be ideal preparation for the Macau event.

BOWLS: END OF AN ERA AS ENGLAND STALWART CALLS IT A DAY

Advancing years prove Bell's final toll

By David Rhys Jones

THE announcement of the teams for the international trial at New Lount, Leicestershire, next month prompted gasps of surprise from bowls followers, because the name of John Bell was absent from the 50-strong squad.

Bell, one of the great characters of the sport, made his first appearance for his country in 1978 and has played in 21 consecutive series. The director of tourism for Carlisle, he has retired from international bowls at the age of 51.

"Physically, the old rugby war-wounds that savage knees and backs do not relent," he said ruefully. "Mentally, the easing of any determination to win and readiness to accept defeat are sure signs that the full spark required for top match play is not glowing so brightly."

In other words, he is now too old to cope with the hurly-burly of international competition in a sport that people used to take up in retirement. In the past 30 years, the average age of national teams has gone down from the middle 50s to the late 20s.

Bell, an all-round sportsman who represented Cumbria at rugby and cricket, first qualified for the national championships as a teenager in 1966 and went on to win the England singles in 1983, pairs in 1991 and triples in 1976 and 1991.

He represented England in five world outdoor championships, winning the fours title twice — in 1984 and 1996. He also took part in the Commonwealth Games in Victoria and Kuala Lumpur.

His 67 appearances in the home internationals constitute a record that he shares with Tony Allcock. They are level, in second place, in the ranking list of England's most-capped players, behind the incomparable David Bryant, who played 81 times for his country on grass. Bell's retirement makes way for the introduction of Nicky Jones, from Bournemouth.

The questions of whether bowls is a spectator sport and whether slow play should be penalised arise whenever it takes more than four hours to complete a fours match of 21 ends, or a triples match of eighteen.

The national indoor triples quarter-final between Chipping Norton and Avon Valley at Melton Mowbray yesterday lasted 5hr 25min, but always held the attention.

"It was high-quality entertainment and the fact that it lasted so long was simply down to the number of dead ends," John Fulcher, the chairman of the competitions committee, said.

Chipping Norton won through 15-13 and were joined in the semi-finals by Stanley, Blackpool Borough and Grantham.

Results, page 41

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Newmarket

Going: good to firm

2.05 (1m 4f) 1, **RAMRUMA** (K Fallon, 8-1), 2, **All The Way** (T Quinn, 14-1); 3, **Time Zone** (P Robinson, 11-2) ALSO RAN: 15-8 fav El Mobasherr, 5 Ipledgeallegiance (6th), 10 Court of Justice, 12 Elmutabaki (4th), 20 War Cabinet (5th), 25 Challenges, 33 Zilarator 10 ran. 3½l, 4l, 3½l, 4l, 9l. H Cecil at Newmarket. Tote: £6.80; £2.40, £3.00, £1.70. DF: £42.10. CSF: £96.39.

2.35 (6f) 1, **BOLD EDGE** (Dane O'Neill, 9-1), 2, **Cretan Gift** (L Dettori, 20-1), 3, **Gorse** (T Quinn, 6-1) ALSO RAN: 9-2 jt-fav Bold Fact, 9-2 jt-fav Tedburrow, 6 Hill Magic, 10 Dashing Blue, 14 Nanoushka (6th), 14 Yorkies Boy, 33 Always Alight, 33 Eastern Lyric, 50 Easy Dollar (5th), 50 Stylish Ways (4th). 13 ran. NR: Tipsy Creek. 4l, nk, ½l, ½l, sh hd. R Hannon at East Everleigh. Tote: £10.50; £3.50, £3.80, £2.00. DF: £164.00. CSF: £160.84.

3.10 (7f) 1, **VALENTINE WALTZ** (L Dettori, 7-2 fav), 2, **Hawriyah** (R Hills, 11-2), 3, **Circle of Gold** (J Fortune, 6-1) ALSO RAN: 6-1 Enemy Action (4th), 7 Atlantic Destiny (5th), 8 Nout, 14 Amazing Dream, Lamzena (6th), 20 Elway Star, Frappe, 33 Sio Lodge. 11 ran. 3l, ¾l, 1l, 1½l, nk. J Gosden at Newmarket. Tote: £4.20; £1.70, £1.60, £2.10. DF: £14.00. CSF: £19.14.

3.40 (7f) 1, **BILLY MCCAW** (K Fallon, 10-1, **Early Bird selection**), 2, **Black Silk** (G Hind, 16-1), 3, **Calcutta** (M Hills, 13-2), 4, **Gauntlet** (Pat Eddery, 10-1) ALSO RAN: 9-2 fav Franco Mina, 9 Retaliator, 14 Bodfari Quarry (6th), Colonel Mustard, Tough Guy (5th), 16 Maple, 20 Adelphi Boy, Casimir, Hadleigh, 25 Blue Star, Champagne Rider, Red Delirium, Route Sixty Six, 33 Santandre, Victorious. 19 ran. NR: Tomoe Gozen. 1¼l, 2½l, 1¼l, 1¼l, nk. P Cole at Whatcombe. Tote: £11.00; £2.20, £3.90, £2.30, £2.60. DF: £156.20. CSF: £121.39. Tricast: £919.70.

4.15 (6f) 1, **LIONHEARTED** (L Dettori, 9-1), 2, **Sartorial** (D Holland, 11-1), 3, **Heroic Blue** (Pat Eddery, 5-4 fav) ALSO RAN: 11-2 Isintaj (4th), 13-2 Ram Ram Go Away, 7 Susan's Pride, 12 Waterfront (5th), 16 Craggy Mountain, Dalaauna (6th), 33 Royal Artist, 50 Amber Brown. 11 ran. ¾l, 2l, ½l, 5l, 1l. J Gosden at Newmarket. Tote: £7.70; £2.10, £2.50, £1.10. DF: £55.80. CSF: £103.22.

4.45 (7f) 1, **BAHAMIAN BANDIT** (K Fallon, 3-1), 2, **World Alert** (J Fortune, 12-1); 3, **Intimaa** (R Hills, 10-1) ALSO RAN: evens fav Ettrick (4th), 5-1 Sporting Lad (5th), 16 Sharoura (6th), 25 Rouge Etoile. 7 ran. 1½l, 1½l, ½l, 1l, 1l. R Hannon at East Everleigh. Tote: £3.50; £2.30, £4.00. DF: £24.50. CSF: £35.47.

5.20 (1m 2f) 1, **MIRJAN** (D Holland, 16-1), 2, **Williamshakespeare** (M Hills, 7-1), 3, **Storm Hill** (J Fortune, 9-4) ALSO RAN: 7-4 fav Aesops (4th), 15-2 Easy To Love (5th), 12 Tabarak, 14 Direct Deal, Entikaa, 20 Sir Legend, Sun Hat, 25 Mixed Currency, 33 Grosvenor Flyer, Knockholt (6th), Natois, Zincalo. 15 ran. ½l, hd, 1l, 1¼l, 1l. L Cumani at Newmarket. Tote: £26.40; £5.60, £2.00, £1.50. DF: £70.90. CSF: £124.58.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £35,542.13 carried forward to Newmarket today).

Placepot: £296.30 **Quadpot: £14.20**

Folkestone

Going: soft, heavy after third race

1.45 (7f) 1, **Pussy Galore** (A Daly, 9-2), 2, Green God (7-1), 3, Full Spate (4-1). Wars 5-2 fav. 10 ran. 1¼l, ½l. D Elsworth. Tote: £6.50; £2.10, £2.70, £1.10. DF: £22.90. CSF: £34.90.

2.15 (6f) 1, **Tinker Osmaston** (J Savage, 7-1); 2, Whatta Madam (14-1); 3, Dryad (11-2 fav). 4, Polish Spirit (10-1). 16 ran. 1½l, 2½l. R Hodges. Tote: £8.80; £3.20, £4.50, £1.90, £2.00. DF: £46.50. CSF: £98.87. Tricast: £537.97.

2.45 (5f) 1, **Eastern Trumpeter** (K Darley, 5-1); 2, Landican Lane (11-4 fav); 3, Weetrain (12-1). 12 ran. NR: Gochinos. ¾l, ¾l. J Bradley. Tote: £5.80; £1.70, £1.10, £2.60. DF: £13.60. CSF: £18.33.

3.20 (5f) 1, **Polar Mist** (Dean McKeown, 13-2), 2, Indian Blaze (3-1 fav), 3, Days of Grace (14-1). 9 ran. 1½l, ¾l. Mrs N Macauley. Tote: £9.50; £2.30, £1.30, £5.80. DF: £12.10. CSF: £24.75.

3.55 (7f) 1, **Mukaaol** (R Ffrench, 5-1), 2, Mr Perry (33-1), 3, Swing Along (4-1). Desert Duke evens fav. 10 ran. Sh hd, 3½l. L Cumani. Tote: £6.10; £1.90, £9.80, £1.10. DF: £144.60. CSF: £149.72.

4.25 (1m 7f 92yd) 1, **Wontcostalotbut** (S Whitworth, 6-1), 2, Durham (6-1), 3, Tufamo (14-1). Doc Ryan's (5th) 4-1 fav. 12 ran. NR: Padauk, Philosophic, Private Fixture, Shining Dancer. 17l, sh hd. M Wilkinson. Tote: £7.20; £1.10, £2.50, £9.70. DF: £31.30. CSF: £42.71. Tricast: £465.59.

4.55 (1m 4f) 1, **April Stock** (S Sanders, evens fav), 2, Pacaera (7-2), 3, Ravenwood Lady (8-1). 11 ran. NR: Quickstep. 3½l, 1½l. Mrs. Gay Kelleway. Tote: £1.50; £1.20, £1.20, £3.40. DF: £2.80. CSF: £4.67.

5.30 (1m 1f 149yd) 1, **Foxes Tail** (S Drowne, 5-1), 2, Sweet Reward (10-1), 3, Zahe (9-4 fav). 13 ran. NR: Bevier, Burning. 3½l, nk. R Hodges. Tote: £8.20; £3.70, £3.00, £1.10. DF: £2.80. CSF: £58.07. Tricast: £139.48.

Placepot: £140.50 **Quadpot: £51.80**

Exeter

Going: good to soft

2.25 (2m 1f 110yd hdle) 1, **Atlantic Mist** (T O'Connor, 9-1), 2, Keep Me In Mind (20-1), 3, Murray's Million (13-2). Northern Drums 6-1 fav. 14 ran. 7l, 3l. B Millman. Tote: £9.50; £2.20, £5.50, £2.20. DF: £101.40. CSF: £163.65. Tricast: £1,141.60.

2.55 (2m 3f 110yd hdle) 1, **Kentish Bard** (C Llewellyn, 3-1 fav), 2, Crookedstone (9-1), 3, Primitive Star (10-1). 18 ran. 3l, 8l. N Gaselee. Tote: £3.90; £1.80, £2.60, £2.70. DF: £29.50. CSF: £29.72.

3.30 (2m 3f ch) 1, **Normarange** (S Burrough, 12-1), 2, Amblesade (4-1), 3, Mr Playfull (14-1). Native Charm (4th) 5-2 fav. 10 ran. Nk, 4l. P Rodford. Tote: £21.80; £3.60, £1.90, £1.80. DF: £33.70. CSF: £55.84. Tricast: £629.29.

4.05 (2m 7f 110yd ch) 1, **Norlandic** (R Widger, 2-1 fav), 2, Joy For Life (12-1), 3, Bally Lira (14-1). 13 ran. NR: Fancy Nancy, The Campdonian. 9l, 10l. P Hobbs. Tote: £2.90; £1.40, £4.00, £3.40. DF: £21.40. CSF: £22.16. Tricast: £238.36.

4.35 (2m 7f hdle) 1, **Walter's Destiny** (Sophie Mitchell, 13-2); 2, Sunrise Special (6-1); 3, Daring King (16-1). Snow Board 11-2 jt-fav. 13 ran. 4l, 1l. C Mitchell. Tote: £6.50; £1.80, £2.80, £5.70. DF: £24.50. CSF: £41.58. Tricast: £555.15.

5.05 (2m 1f 110yd hdle) 1, **Lord of The Flies** (M Batchelor, 14-1); 2, Jalb (3-1 fav), 3, Falcon Ridge (10-1); 4, Sandoran (12-1). 18 ran. 1½l, 1¾l. Miss H Knight. Tote: £24.70; £3.90, £1.10, £7.70, £2.70. DF: £85.10. CSF: £63.99. Tricast: £458.98.

5.35 (2m 3f 110yd hdle) 1, **Kellys Conquest** (A Bates, 7-2), 2, Ross Minster (12-1), 3, Hardly (4-5 fav). 18 ran. 13l, 5l. J Mullins. Tote: £3.90; £1.30, £2.40, £1.20. DF: £55.80. CSF: £43.27.

Placepot: £229.20 **Quadpot: £62.80**

BEVERLEY

ROB WRIGHT

2.15 Wadi	3.55 Joely Green
2.45 Zulal (nb)	4.25 Cowboys And Angels
	4.55 Medelai
3.20 Mundo Raro	5.25 Opulent

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM
DRAW: 5F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST SIS

2.15 SCARBOROUGH SELLING STAKES
(£2,164: 1m 100yd) (17 runners)

1	1532	ANONYM 13 (D,F,G) G M Moore 7-9-12	P Goode (5) 3
2	3000	BATSMAN 14 M Dods 5-9-12	F Lynch 15
3	016-	DESERT CAT 119J (G) M Wane 6-9-12	R Lappin 12
4	6060	DETROIT CITY 14 (C,G,S) B Rothwell 4-9-12	G Duffield 9
5	-004	GENUINE JOHN 13 (D,G) J Parkes 6-9-12	R Winston (3) 14
6	5343	MR ROUGH 60 (B,D,F,S) D Morris 8-9-12	N Day 7
7	363-	NOBBY BARNES 166 (D,F,G,S) Enrico Incisa 10-9-12	Kim Tinkler 2
8	0060	PINE RIDGE LAD 8 (C,D,F,G) J L Harris 9-9-12	R FitzPatrick (5) 17
9	0-00	U-NO-HARRY 32 (F) R Hollinshead 6-9-12	D Sweeney 4
10	6-03	WADI 13 (G) G McCourt 4-9-12	J Weaver 13
11	000-	FRECKLES 9J (G) M Ryan 4-9-7	P McCabe 10
12	1200	THE WILD WIDOW 18 Miss S Wilton 5-9-7	N Callan (5) 5
13	0/	DIG FOR GOLD 40J (T) R Woodhouse 6-9-6	G Parkin 16
14	-620	EASTLEIGH 28 (D,S) R Hollinshead 10-9-6	A Culhane 8
15	0-	RUSSIAN ROUGE 117 M Brittain 4-9-1	D Mernagh (5) 6
16	0005	TOWNVILLE CEE CEE 7 G Woodward 4-9-1	S D Williams 11
17	50-	TIP THE BALANCE 317 J Parkes 3-8-0	F Norton 1

5-1 Wadi, 6-1 The Wild Widow, 7-1 Anonym, 8-1 Genuine John, 10-1 others.

2.45 WITHERNSEA HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £2,960: 7f 100yd) (16)

1	203-	OPEN ARMS 176 Mrs A King 9-7	A Daly (3) 14
2	06-5	COLLEGE DEAN 9 (S) J J O'Neill 9-6	P Goode (5) 6
3	5151	KENTUCKY BULLET 18 (T,D,S) M Johnston 9-3	J Fanning 4
4	30-1	LITTLE AMIN 15 (D,S) J Bethell 9-2	J Weaver 16
5	6-16	PRIDEWAY 18 (D) A Bailey 9-2	A Mackay 8
6	04-4	ZULAL 13 (BF) E Dunlop 9-2	K Darley 15
7	016-	BIG AL 270 (G) R Fahey 9-2	P Hanagan (7) 12
8	000-	UNTOLD RICHES 197 (V) J Gosden 9-1	G Hind 7
9	0-03	DILETTO 13 E Alston 9-0	A Culhane 3
10	001-	MONTAGUE TIGG 191 (G) N Tinkler 9-0	G Duffield 11
11	205-	LUCY MARIELLA 178 G A Butler 8-13	J F Egan 9
12	50-2	IT'S OUR SECRET 9 M Tompkins 8-11	S Drowne 2
13	000-	SPRINGS NOBLEQUEST 225 (S) T Easterby 8-11	L Charnock 5
14	6-00	RED CHARGER 18 (D,F,G) D Nicholls 8-10	F Norton 13
15	00-0	BUTTERSCOTCH 13 J Eyre 8-9	R Lappin 1
16	00-0	SHARP LOVE 9 M Ryan 8-6	P McCabe 10

9-2 Little Amin, 6-1 Zulal, 7-1 Kentucky Bullet, 8-1 Prideway, Montague Tigg, 10-1 Untold Riches, It's Our Secret, 12-1 others.

3.20 LECONFIELD CLASSIFIED STAKES
(£6,093: 7f 100yd) (8)

1	104-	GRANGEVILLE 179 (D,S) I Balding 4-9-5	S Whitworth 2
2	020-	MUNDO RARO 165 (F) J FitzGerald 4-9-5	G Duffield 4
3	005/	GENERAL ACADEMY 86J (G) M W Easterby 6-9-2	G Parkin 8
4	40-5	LATALOMNE 20 (F) B Ellison 5-9-2	R Winston (3) 5
5	00-0	TOM DOUGAL 18 (G) C Smith 4-9-2	J F Egan 7
6	30-5	YULARA 2 (D,G) B Meehan 4-8-13	W J O'Connor 1
7	41-0	RIVER TIMES 11 (F) T Easterby 3-8-5	K Darley 3
8	331-	SERPENTINE 204 (D,F) J Fanshawe 3-8-5	O Urbina 6

5-2 Grangeville, 9-2 Serpentine, 11-2 Mundo Raro, 6-1 Tom Dougal, 13-2 Yulara, 7-1 River Times, 10-1 Latalomne, 14-1 General Academy

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: J Gosden, 4 winners from 16 runners, 25.0%; M Johnston, 27 from 122, 22.1%; Mrs M Reveley, 15 from 80, 18.8%; E Dunlop, 5 from 27, 18.5%; J Berry, 21 from 120, 17.5%; M Wane, 5 from 29, 17.2%.

JOCKEYS: D Sweeney, 4 winners from 15 rides, 26.7%; K Darley, 38 from 191, 19.9%; C Lowther, 7 from 40, 17.5%; M Henry, 4 from 28, 14.3%; J Carroll, 15 from 116, 12.9%; J Weaver, 15 from 125, 12.0%.

3.55 HUTTON CRANSWICK MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES
(Div I: 2-Y-O: £2,373: 5f) (13)

1		GOING HOME J Eyre 8-12	C Lowther 2
2	3	GAIN TIME 16 T Barron 8-9	D Pears 7
3	3	KIND EMPEROR 18 M Polglase 8-9	V Halliday 4
4		THORNCLIFF FOX J Glover 8-9	S D Williams 12
5	03	HEATHYARDS LAD 11 R Hollinshead 8-6	A Culhane 8
6		JOELY GREEN W G M Turner 8-6	A Nicholls (5) 9
7		LABRETT B Meehan 8-6	W J O'Connor 3
8		BEST EVER M W Easterby 8-3	G Parkin 1
9		JAMESTOWN C Smith 8-3	P Fessey 10
10		CLEVER GIRL T Easterby 8-1	L Charnock 11
11	2	TARA'S GIRL 11 J J Quinn 8-1	D Mernagh (5) 5
12		APRIL'S COMAIT Miss J Craze 7-12	T Williams 6
13	0	OURS FOR LIFE 7 Ron Thompson 7-12	A Mackay 13

3-1 Heathyards Lad, 5-1 Kind Emperor, 6-1 Gain Time, 7-1 Clever Girl, 8-1 Tara's Girl, 10-1 Ours For Life, 12-1 Joely Green, Labrett, 14-1 others.

4.25 HUTTON CRANSWICK MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES
(Div II: 2-Y-O: £2,373: 5f) (13)

1		VALENTINES VISION N Littmoden 8-12	T G McLaughlin 9
2	5	JENSENS TALE 9 Mrs A King 8-9	A Daly (3) 13
3	0	XENOS 11 M Channon 8-9	A Mackay 12
4	3	COWBOYS AND ANGELS 14 W G M Turner 8-6	J F Egan 8
5		SAMMIE DUROSE R Fahey 8-6	R Winston (3) 6
6	4	VALS WHISPA 13 S Kettlewell 8-6	J Carroll 11
7	5	HAPPY TIMES 15 M W Easterby 8-3	T Lucas 1
8		IN THE NICK J Berry 8-3	K Darley 5
9		BOMBELLINA J Eustace 8-1	J Tate 4
10	03	DESERT SAFARI 13 E Alston 8-1	M Henry 7
11	5	DIAMOND ISLE 13 M Brittain 7-12	D Mernagh (5) 2
12	6	LADY TILLY 13 M Wane 7-12	L Charnock 3
13	0	SWEET HAVEN 11 M Heaton-Ellis 7-12	T Williams 10

7-2 Xenos, 6-1 Jensens Tale, Vals Whispa, Desert Safari, 7-1 In The Nick, 8-1 Cowboys And Angels, 12-1 Sweet Haven, 16-1 others.

4.55 BRIDLINGTON BAY HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £2,889: 1m 3f 216yd) (12)

1	05-1	COMPTON AMICA 14 (S) G A Butler 9-7	J F Egan 1
2	03-6	FLY LIKE A BIRD 14 S Woods 9-1	G Duffield 9
3	306-	SCOOP 163 (G) S Kettlewell 8-13	J Carroll 10
4	00-0	SADDLERS' GLORY 14 C Fairhurst 8-11	I Grantham (7) 11
5	210-	MEDELAI 165 (S) J Bethell 8-9	J Weaver 8
6	600-	SHOP WINDOW 177 T Easterby 8-9	K Darley 5
7	-563	CORAL REEF 9 (V) W G M Turner 8-2	A Daly (3) 3
8	0-00	DISPOL TRUMP 7 P Calver 7-12	J McAuley (7) 2
9	560-	HI-JENNY 193 W Storey 7-11	T Williams 7
10	060-	BOLD FELICITER 198 D Moffatt 7-10	N Carlisle 12
11	000-	GILLY WEET 158 R Hollinshead 7-10	P M Quinn (7) 4
12	000-	PARISIENNE HILL 174 B Murray 7-10	S Righton 6

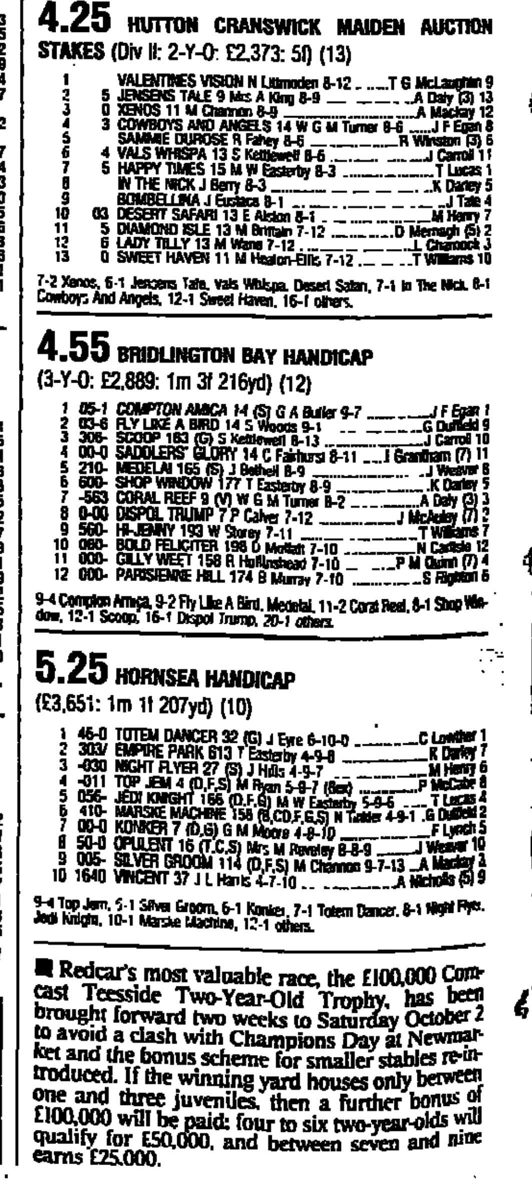
9-4 Compton Amica, 9-2 Fly Like A Bird, Medelai, 11-2 Coral Reef, 8-1 Shop Window, 12-1 Scoop, 16-1 Dispol Trump, 20-1 others.

5.25 HORNSEA HANDICAP
(£3,651: 1m 1f 207yd) (10)

1	46-0	TOTEM DANCER 32 (G) J Eyre 6-10-0	C Lowther 1
2	303/	EMPIRE PARK 613 T Easterby 4-9-8	K Darley 7
3	-030	NIGHT FLYER 27 (S) J Hills 4-9-7	M Henry 6
4	-011	TOP JEM 4 (D,F,S) M Ryan 5-8-7 (6ex)	P McCabe 8
5	056-	JEDI KNIGHT 166 (D,F,G) M W Easterby 5-8-6	T Lucas 4
6	410-	MARSKE MACHINE 158 (B,CD,F,G,S) N Tinkler 4-9-1	G Duffield 2
7	00-0	KONKER 7 (D,G) G M Moore 4-8-10	F Lynch 5
8	50-0	OPULENT 16 (T,C,S) Mrs M Reveley 8-8-9	J Weaver 10
9	005-	SILVER GROOM 114 (D,F,S) M Channon 9-7-13	A Mackay 3
10	1640	VINCENT 37 J L Harris 4-7-10	A Nicholls (5) 9

9-4 Top Jem, 5-1 Silver Groom, 6-1 Konker, 7-1 Totem Dancer, 8-1 Night Flyer, Jedi Knight, 10-1 Marske Machine, 12-1 others.

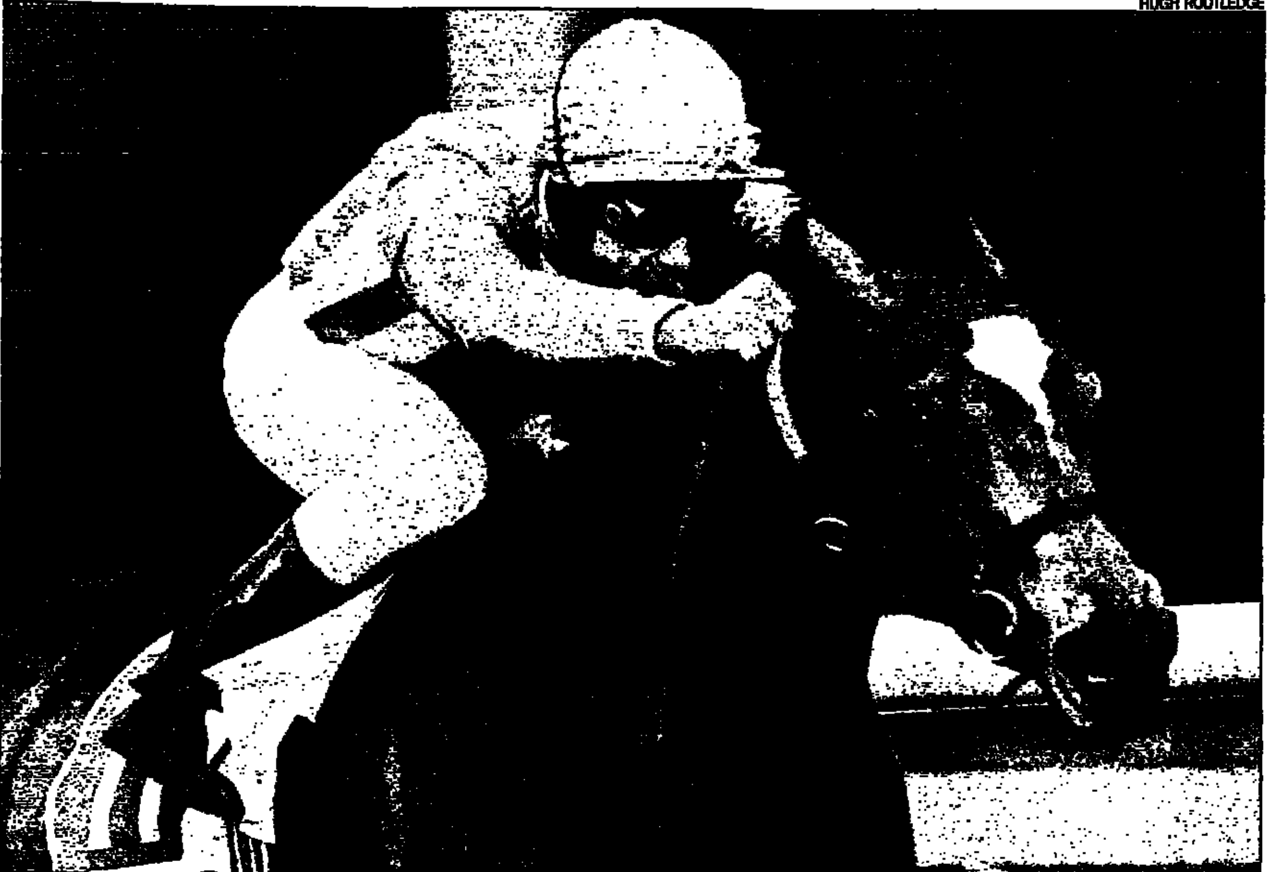
■ Redcar's most valuable race, the £100,000 Comcast Teesside Two-Year-Old Trophy, has been brought forward two weeks to Saturday October 2 to avoid a clash with Champions Day at Newmarket and the bonus scheme for smaller stables re-introduced. If the winning yard houses only between one and three juveniles, then a further bonus of £100,000 will be paid: four to six two-year-olds will qualify for £50,000, and between seven and nine earns £25,000.



RACING: GOSDEN-TRAINED FILLY ENTERS GUINEAS RECKONING AFTER EASY SUCCESS IN NELL GWYN

Valentine Waltz steps into limelight

By Chris McGrath


HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Valentine Waltz and Dettori stretch for the line in the Shadwell Stud Nell Gwyn Stakes at Newmarket yesterday

ACCUSTOMED to wearing a lovely summer frock for racedays, the July course at Newmarket yesterday shivered through a raw afternoon of hail squalls and pale sunshine. At its conclusion, Valentine Waltz was still available at 16-1 for the Sagitta 1,000 Guineas despite an emphatic success in the Shadwell Stud Nell Gwyn Stakes. All in all, Flat racing's headquarters could emerge from hibernation to reflect, with Shakespeare, on "the uncertain glory of an April day".

Conditions were bleakly familiar from the Craven meeting's usual home — over on the Rowley Mile, which is closed during construction of a new grandstand — but so are the sort of bright hopes inspired by the likes of Valentine Waltz. Three days here, followed by cards at Newbury on Friday and Saturday, provide the classic generation with a week either to blossom or be nipped in the bud.

In fairness to Newmarket, the paddock was girdled with a gorgeous bed of spring flowers and there was a corresponding bloom to Valentine Waltz, who has a pretty white heart on her forehead and evidently a brave one in her chest, too.

For much of the seven-furlong journey she was stuck on the rail behind Hawriyah, but when the leader drifted under pressure at the furlong pole she burst through under Frankie Dettori. Eating up the ground, she quickly went three lengths clear, with Circle Of Gold finishing best of the remainder in third.

Valentine Waltz had ended an industrious juvenile campaign with just a Brighton maiden success from seven starts, but John Gosden was confident of her progress since. "She has been showing a great attitude in her work, where she used to hang and not look that interested," the trainer said. "We haven't done a lot with her, she has just been drawing up on the bridle, but she has done it with a lot more enthusiasm."

Minor knee surgery has helped Valentine Waltz look more credibly the part than when veterinary examination prevented her intended sale last year. Her owners have cause for relief now that she is quoted at just 10-1 for the Guineas by the Tote, albeit she is 16-1 with the other leading firms and the runner-up is apparently not held in high esteem. Though they did not go especially fast and the time was modest, Gosden is optimistic that the winner will stay the extra furlong in the classic. He did emphasise, however, that she would not want the ground any softer.

Dettori, who sounds likely to ride Etizaaz for Godolphin in the Guineas, added: "She quickened up real good and *any filly that wins a trial by* three lengths has got to be a live candidate." Their success helped lend the substance of action to some words of bold intent from Dettori, who is determined to put a rather unfulfilled 1998 behind him.

"I was perhaps trying to look after myself too much, to avoid getting suspended or injured," he said. "But basically that's not my style." Even so, his cosmopolitan excursions with Godolphin mean that his championship effort must be reduced to "giving it a good go and counting at the end".

Though Dettori promptly added Lionhearted in the Stetchworth Maiden, Kieren Fallon's defence certainly looks too earnest to permit his rivals much bluster. The champion rode a treble for different trainers, most notably Ramruma for Henry Cecil in the April Maiden. Though weak in the market, the Diesis filly was strong enough at the finish to earn a Vodafone Oaks quote of 20-1 from Coral. Cecil said: "She's unfurnished and will make a lot of improvement with the sun on her back. You never know."

Fallon also scored on Billy McCaw in the William Hill Handicap and Bahamian Bandit in the Boadicea Stakes, the latter completing a double for Richard Hannon after Bold Edge made most in the NGK Spark Plugs Abernant Stakes.

Bradley charged, page 44

NEWMARKET

ROB WRIGHT

1.35 Quiet Dignity
2.05 Return Of Amin
2.35 Duck Row
3.10 Indiana Legend
3.45 Alberich
4.15 Musical Treat
4.45 Nasaieb
5.20 Cloudy Sky

Our Newmarket correspondent: 1.35 Swan Knight. 2.05 Stanott. 5.20 **EASTERN CHAMP** (nap).

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM TOTE JACKPOT MEETING DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

1.35 WOOD DITTON STAKES

(Div I: 3-Y-O: £4,565: 1m) (12 runners)

No. (draw)	Horse (owner) trainer age-weight	Jockey	Rating
101 (12)	CAPTAIN BLIGH (M Tabor & Mrs J Magnier) Sir M Stoute 9-0	S Sanders	—
102 (1)	HIGH HOYLAND (J Hardiman) R Hannon 9-0	R Hughes	—
103 (2)	KEZ (D Yardy) S Woods 9-0	Dane O'Neill	—
104 (6)	KUWAIT BIRD (Greenfield Stud) K Mahdi 9-0	J Quinn	—
105 (4)	MANNDAR (H R H Aga Khan) L Cumani 9-0	J Fortune	—
106 (3)	PARKSIDE (The Parkside Partnership) W Muir 9-0	Martin Dwyer	—
107 (9)	SWAN KNIGHT (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 9-0	L Dettori	—
108 (5)	WHISPERING WIND (M al-Maktoum) E Dunlop 9-0	T Quinn	—
109 (7)	WHO CARES WINS (K Dasmal) C Brittain 9-0	P Robinson	—
110 (11)	FORTUNE COOKIE (Dr St John Collier & Mrs S Collier) J Fanshawe 8-9	R Cochrane	—
111 (8)	MISHOR (Mrs J Prescott) W Jarvis 8-9	M Tebbutt	—
112 (10)	QUIET DIGNITY (W Gredley) B Hills 8-9	M Hills	—

BETTING: 5-2 Swan Knight, 4-1 Quiet Dignity, 6-1 Captain Bligh, Manndar, 13-2 Whispering Wind, 14-1 Who Cares Wins, Fortune Cookie, 16-1 others.

1998: THE SANDFLY 8-9 M Hills (20-1) B Hills 19 ran

2.05 GRANTCHESTER RATED HANDICAP (C4)

(£10,042: 7f) (20 runners)

No. (draw)	Form	Horse (owner) trainer age-weight	Jockey	Rating
201 (4)	3144-4	KUMAIT 9 (G,S) (M al-Maktoum) E Dunlop 5-9-7	R Hills	116
202 (14)	00004-	TUMBLEWEED RIDGE 192 (B,T,CD,F,G,S) B Meehan 6-9-7	M Tebbutt	107
203 (5)	14142-	STANOTT 262 (D,F,S) (Scuderia Rencati Srl) L Cumani 4-9-6	L Dettori	89
204 (18)	00000-	DAUNTING LADY 207 (D,G,S) (E Nagell-Erichsen) R Hannon 4-9-2	R Hughes	99
205 (20)	1020-2	GRANNY'S PET 9 (D,F) (Mrs D Arbib) P Cole 5-9-2	DOUBTFUL	-
206 (3)	316-00	ASTRAC 9 (D,F,S) (T Beecroft) D Nicholls 8-9-1	Alex Greaves	108
207 (2)	/0232-	AL MUALLIM 190 (BF,D,F,G) (Al Muallim Partnership) J W Payne 5-9-0	A McGlone	105
208 (1)	00265-	RETURN OF AMIN 148 (D,S) (Sheikh A Dahlawi) J Bethell 5-8-13	T Quinn	119
209 (8)	/1400-	DAYLIGHT IN DUBAI 184 (G,S) (P Lake) D Nicholls 5-8-10	K Fallon	—
210 (16)	00200-	EMERGING MARKET 200 (F) (P Wroughton) J Dunlop 7-8-10	Pat Eddery	106
211 (9)	35043-	HARMONIC WAY 194 (BF,F) (Mrs A Chandris) R Charlton 4-8-9	T Sprake	[illegible]
212 (17)	23512-	FREE OPTION 202 (BF,D,F,G) (A Ali) B Hanbury 4-8-8	W Ryan	121
213 (19)	20010-	EPSOM CYCLONE 186 (S) (S Bel Obaida) B Hills 4-8-6	M Hills	110
214 (12)	23110-	SALTY JACK 171 (D,F,G,S) (Four Seasons Racing) V Soane 5-8-5	R Cochrane	117
215 (11)	30000-	OMAHA CITY 200 (D,F,G) (B Gubby Ltd) B Gubby 5-8-4	J Quinn	124
216 (15)	00020-	NO EXTRAS 179 (CD,F,G,S) (K Higson) G L Moore 9-8-4	R Brisland (7)	126
217 (10)	40060-	SHOWBOAT 179 (D,F) (R Hollingsworth) B Hills 5-8-4	N Pollard (3)	121
218 (6)	000-60	TEMERAIRE 18 (F) (P Mooney) R Ingram 4-8-4	A Clark	107
219 (13)	000-00	TERTIUM 18 (CD,F,S) (Mrs L Miller) N Littmoden 7-8-4	M Fenton	113
220 (7)	130-0	DUSHANBE 18 (D,S) (G Hartigan) N Callaghan 4-8-4	J Lowe	101

Long handicap: No Extras 8-3, Showboat 8-2, Temeraire 8-1, Tertium 7-11, Dushanbe 7-11.

BETTING: 7-1 Daylight In Dubai, Stanott, 8-1 Harmonic Way, 10-1 Free Option, Epsom Cyclone, Salty Jack, Showboat, Al Muallim, 12-1 Daunting Lady, Kumait, Return Of Amin, Emerging Market, 16-1 Tumbleweed Ridge, 20-1 others.

1998: TUMBLEWEED RIDGE 5-9-3 M Tebbutt (14-1) B Meehan 16 ran

FORM ANALYSIS STANOTT won on his reappearance last season and could reward support in what looks a very competitive heat. The statistics point to Luca Cumani's older horses being best caught first time out and this son of Mukaddamah, second in a listed race at San Siro (1m) on his final start last year, may have got in lightly on his handicap bow. Barry Hills has started the season particularly well and boasts a strong hand with Epsom Cyclone and Showboat. Further rain would help the former who showed his liking for an easy surface when beating Carranita ¾l at Salisbury (6l, heavy) last September. He is interesting stepping up to seven furlongs and after undergoing a wind operation this winter, while Showboat, 9lb better off for the 2½l he was beaten into third by Tumbleweed Ridge in this race last year, starts his campaign on a handy mark. Kumait may do better for his reappearance 4l fourth to Hill Magic at Kempton (6l, holds seventh-placed Astrac), his first race since joining Ed Dunlop from Godolphin and being gelded. Emerging Market has shown his best form away from Newmarket.

2.35 WEATHERBYS EARL OF SEFTON STAKES (C4)

(Group III: £20,000: 1m 110yd) (10 runners)

No. (draw)	Form	Horse (owner) trainer age-weight	Jockey	Rating
301 (10)	41210-	HANDSOME RIDGE 122 (D,S) (Platt Promotions Ltd) J Gosden 5-8-13	L Dettori	131
302 (2)	3/244-	ALBOOSTAN 268 (BF,D,G) (H al-Maktoum) B Hills 4-8-10	M Hills	114
303 (5)	3130-U	DOWER HOUSE 9 (D,F,G) (Lord H De Walden) W Jarvis 4-8-10	W Ryan	117
304 (8)	63303-	DUCK ROW 187 (BF,D,S) (Duke of Devonshire) J Toller 4-8-10	S Sanders	133
305 (9)	53445-	GREEN CARD 165 (D,F,G) (P Chu) S Woods 5-8-10	Pat Eddery	114
306 (3)	50221-	HAAMI 180 (T,C,F,G) (H al-Maktoum) J Dunlop 4-8-10	R Hills	[illegible]
307 (4)	13314-	LEAR SPEAR 180 (D,G) (R Tooth) D Elsworth 4-8-10	T Quinn	116
308 (7)	1241-1	WHITE HEART 20 (B,D,G,S) (M al-Maktoum) M Johnston 4-8-10	D Holland	117
309 (6)	2-5604	DIAMOND WHITE 9 (C,F,S) (P Scott) M Ryan 4-8-7	R Price	118
310 (1)	1-	SHIVA 319 (G) (Niarchos Family) H Cecil 4-8-7	K Fallon	83

BETTING: 7-2 Handsome Ridge, Haami, White Heart, 11-2 Shiva, 7-1 Duck Row, 10-1 Alboostan, 12-1 Green Card, Lear Spear, 25-1 others.

1998: APPREHENSION 4-8-10 D Holland (16-1) D Loder (Fr) 7 ran

FORM ANALYSIS HAAMI is undoubtedly a horse of some ability on his day and it could be that a tongue strap, fitted for his fine 2½l defeat of Mudeer in the listed Darley Stakes on the Rowley Mile course (1m 1f) in October, will prove the key to him enjoying further success. He is said to be in good form for his reappearance and his stable has made a fast start to the new season. Handsome Ridge is probably the one he has to beat. He posted career best figures when beating Princely Heir 2l in the group three GNER Stakes at Doncaster (1m) in September and lost nothing in defeat when subsequently second to Incatable in the group two Prix Dollar at Longchamp (1m 2f). Alboostan experienced problems with his stifles last year and has had a number of operations. He may prove best watched on his return to action and makes less appeal than the race-fit White Heart. Mark Johnston's charge, who will not be inconvenienced by any further rain, earned this step up to group level when brushing aside Generous Libra and Ramooz in the Doncaster Mile last month. Duck Row has stronger claims than Green Card on the balance of their form. James Toller's four-year-old kept good company last season and was not disgraced in either the 2,000 Guineas or the St James's Palace Stakes (beaten around 4l on both occasions).

3.10 VICTOR CHANDLER EUROPEAN FREE HANDICAP (C4)

(Listed race; 3-Y-O: £17,150: 7f) (6 runners)

No. (draw)	Form	Horse (owner) trainer age-weight	Jockey	Rating
401 (6)	12402-	BERTOLINI 195 (C,F) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 9-7	L Dettori	92
402 (1)	21422-	INDIANA LEGEND 186 (BF,F) (D Johnston) B Meehan 9-6	Pat Eddery	90
403 (5)	4141-	UNDETERRED 186 (F,G) (S Fustok) C Wall 9-6	S Sanders	90
404 (4)	2113-	VISION OF NIGHT 195 (F) (Hesmonds Stud) J Dunlop 9-5	T Quinn	[illegible]
405 (2)	2221-0	KALIDASA 11 (D,F) (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 9-1	J Fortune	90
406 (3)	20104-	CABALLERO 214 (F) (Sheikh M al-Maktoum) C Brittain 8-12	P Robinson	93

BETTING: 3-1 Vision Of Night, 7-2 Indiana Legend, 4-1 Bertolini, 9-2 Undeterred, 11-2 Caballero, 7-1 Kalidasa.

1998: DESERT PRINCE 9-5 O Peslier (7-1) D Loder (Fr) 9 ran

John Dunlop said the Free Handicap could prove "just the race" for VISION OF NIGHT in a recent interview and the claims of this dual winner have to be respected. The son of Night Shift coped with the transition to group company when a creditable 4¾l third to Lujain, ¾l behind second-placed Bertolini (2lb worse off), in the Middle Park Stakes (6f) last October and may be better suited by this extra furlong than the runner-up. Indiana Legend showed very useful form when 3l fourth to Orpen in the Prix Morny at Deauville and when short-headed by Golden Silca in the Mill Reef Stakes (both over 6f) last season. He may not have been at his best when beaten a head by Undeterred (same terms) at York (6f) in October (yesterday's Nell Gwyn winner Valentine Waltz in third) and is fancied to reverse placings here. Caballero showed his best form last season when dropped back to 5f and finishing 1½l fourth to Sheer Viking in the Flying Childers at Doncaster. He may prove best at sprint distances, while Kalidasa proved disappointing on her reappearance at Kempton (1m).

3.45 SCOTTISH EQUITABLE/JOCKEYS ASSOCIATION HANDICAP [SHOWCASE RACE] (C4)

(£6,492: 1m 4f) (13 runners)

No. (draw)	Form	Horse (owner) trainer age-weight	Jockey	Rating
501 (2)	4110-4	HAJR 11 (C,D,F,G) (M al-Maktoum) E Dunlop 5-10-0	Pat Eddery	104
502 (6)	42111-	RAINBOW WAYS 161 (CD,F,G) (M al-Maktoum) B Hills 4-9-10	M Hills	76
503 (1)	13/14-	ALBERICH 215 (D,F,G) (J Abell) M Johnston 4-9-8	D Holland	98
504 (11)	0221P-	JUST IN TIME 199 (F) (Mrs P Merrick) T Mills 4-9-7	L Carter	95
505 (12)	/000/0	BLURRED 9 (G) (Mrs P Kalman) M Tompkins 6-8-8	G Faulkner (3)	56
506 (10)	213-00	FIRST MASTER 93 (G) (Three's Lucky P'ship) Miss G Kelleway 4-8-7	S Sanders	85
507 (7)	33622-	MINIVET 168 (BF,F) (Sir Thomas Pilkington) M Bell 4-8-7	T Quinn	99
508 (9)	/0034-	ST LAWRENCE 245 (S Manana) C Brittain 5-8-5	P Robinson	93
509 (3)	0221-0	LANCER 20 (V,D,F,G) (C Marsh) J Pearce 7-8-5	A Polli (3)	[illegible]
510 (5)	3221-	WAVE OF OPTIMISM 162 (S) (Wave of Opt'm P'ship) J Pearce 4-8-4	G Bardwell	80
511 (4)	2/600-	GLORY OF GROSVENOR 205 (B) (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 4-8-4	R Havlin	62
512 (13)	535/0-	BEAUMONT 426J (C,D,F,G,S) (P Cunningham) J Banks 9-8-2	J Quinn	—
513 (8)	600-00	GENERAL ASSEMBLY 11J (S) (Craftsmen) G Margarson 7-7-12	R Ffrench	100

BETTING: 3-1 Alberich, 4-1 Rainbow Ways, 9-2 Hajr, 6-1 Minivet, 8-1 Lancer, 12-1 Just In Time, Wave Of Optimism, 14-1 others.

1998: RAISE A PRINCE 5-8-12 N Day (12-1) S Woods 21 ran

Hajr found the ground too heavy when a well-beaten fourth to *Coulthard at Haydock (1m 4f) on his reappearance. It would* be no surprise to see him bounce back, but a safer bet is the ultra-consistent MINIVET. He suffered a slipped saddle on his final start last year after chasing home Night City in a claimer at York (1m 2f). A mark of 75 appears very fair. Rainbow Ways runs without the blinkers that served him so well last backend and could prove less of a threat than Alberich. This lightly-raced sort defied a similarly lengthy absence when beating Murgham ½l at York (1m 4f) off a 4lb lower mark last September. Lancer found little off the bridle when eighth of 17 to Prince Nicholas at Doncaster (1m 4f) on his return but may improve for that outing.

4.15 GEOFFREY BARLING MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES

(3-Y-O: £4,500: 7f) (14 runners)

No. (draw)	Form	Horse (owner) trainer age-weight	Jockey	Rating
601 (9)	0-	CASSANDRA GO 197 (T Stewart) G Wragg 8-11	M Roberts	55
602 (4)	04-	CHAMBRE SEPAREE 165 (Miss K Rausing) G Wragg 8-11	P Robinson	72
603 (14)	20-	DESDEMONA 190 (Cheveley Park Stud) G Wragg 8-11	D Holland	71
604 (1)		EN SILENCE (E Stibbe) J Noseda 8-11	Pat Eddery	—
605 (13)	06-	FANTASTIC BELLE 198 (Dr C Stelling) P Makin 8-11	S Sanders	58
606 (11)		GOLD ANGEL (T) (M al-Maktoum) E Dunlop 8-11	W Ryan	—
607 (10)		INSINUATE (K Abdulla) H Cecil 8-11	K Fallon	—
608 (3)		MISS UNIVERSITY (B Bull) C Wall 8-11	A Whelan	—
609 (7)		MOSS ROSE (Mrs A Bourne) B Hills 8-11	M Hills	—
610 (12)	2-	MUSICAL TREAT 258 (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11	J Fortune	78
611 (8)	0-	PEARL BARLEY 193 (S Manana) C Brittain 8-11	T Sprake	40
612 (5)	64-	RIMBA 250 (G Strawbridge) J Gosden 8-11	L Dettori	66
613 (6)	62-	SPOONFUL OF SUGAR 158 (W Gredley) C Cyzer 8-11	T Quinn	[illegible]
614 (2)	5-	SULALAT 312 (H al-Maktoum) R Armstrong 8-11	R Hills	71

BETTING: 9-4 Musical Treat, 9-2 Rimba, 13-2 Insinuate, 10-1 Gold Angel, Spoonful Of Sugar, Sulalat, 12-1 others.

1998: SULTANA 8-11 R Perham (50-1) J G Smyth-Osbourne 15 ran

4.45 NGK SPARK PLUGS BARTLOW MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES

(2-Y-O: £4,305: 5f) (9 runners)

No. (draw)	Form	Horse (owner) trainer age-weight	Jockey	Rating
1 (3)		ERIN ANAM CARA (Prayer And A Song Syndicate) D Cosgrove 8-11	A McGlone	—
2 (5)		HOH DEAR (D Allport) M Bell 8-11	R Mullen (3)	—
3 (6)	6	INDEEDYEDO 20 (Partners Tojamate) J Pearce 8-11	K Fallon	[illegible]
4 (2)		JANICELAND (Cable Media Consultancy Ltd) S Kettlewell 8-11	M Fenton	—
5 (7)		LADY SARKA (Thurloe Thoroughbreds IV) R Hannon 8-11	R Hughes	—
6 (1)		NASAIEB (S Manana) C Brittain 8-11	P Robinson	—
7 (9)		NEVER DISS MISS (Mr Tim Feaner) R Williams 8-11	M Hills	—
8 (4)		PUSSIE WILLOW (Major C Hanbury) P Cole 8-11	J Fortune	—
9 (8)		SEAZUN (J Breslin) M Channon 8-11	T Quinn	—

BETTING: 3-1 Lady Sarka, 4-1 Seazun, 9-2 Pussie Willow, 11-2 Indeedyedo, 6-1 Hoh Dear, 10-1 others.

1998: JIG 8-11 T Quinn (3-1) P Cole 7 ran

5.20 WOOD DITTON STAKES (Div II: 3-Y-O: £4,533: 1m) (12 runners)

No. (draw)	Horse (owner) trainer age-weight	Jockey	Rating
1 (7)	CLOUDY SKY (Lord Weinstock) Sir M Stoute 9-0	R Hills	—
2 (12)	EASTERN CHAMP (P Chu) S Woods 9-0	J Fortune	—
3 (1)	HARLEQUIN DANCER (C T S Racing Partnership) J Gosden 9-0	L Dettori	—
4 (8)	KARINGA PRINCE (C Sparrowhawk) G L Moore 9-0	M Roberts	—
5 (3)	OCTANE (Buckram Oak Holdings) H Cecil 9-0	K Fallon	—
6 (5)	ORO STREET (Osvaldo Pedroni) A Kelleway 9-0	P Fredericks (5)	—
7 (11)	ROMAN CANDLE (Exors Late Sir W Stutzford) C Wall 9-0	A Whelan	—
8 (4)	WOODCOTE WARRIOR (A Perry) R Hannon 9-0	Dane O'Neill	—
9 (6)	KERALBA (K Abdulla) B Hills 8-9	Pat Eddery	—
10 (9)	SNOWY RANGE (Hesmonds Stud) J Noseda 8-9	W Ryan	—
11 (10)	SPANKER (R Hollingsworth) B Hills 8-9	D Holland	—
12 (2)	SWEET EMOTION (M al-Maktoum) E Dunlop 8-9	G Carter	—

BETTING: 5-2 Cloudy Sky, 3-1 Octane, 5-1 Keralba, 13-2 Spanker, 12-1 Harlequin Dancer, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Wins	Rnrs	%
H Cecil	24	95	25.3	K Fallon	20	79	25.3
J Gosden	21	118	17.8	R Hills	26	106	24.5
J Toller	3	17	17.6	J Quinn	10	48	20.8
J Dunlop	21	120	17.5	L Dettori	33	161	20.5
B Hanbury	11	67	16.4	Pat Eddery	35	172	20.3

Murphy faces ban at whip inquiry

TIMMY MURPHY could face a lengthy ban if found to be in breach of the latest whip guidelines at an inquiry of the Jockey Club's disciplinary committee today.

Murphy was referred to Portman Square by the Aintree stewards over his use of the whip on Juyush, pulled up behind Istabraq in the Martell Aintree Hurdle.

In changes to the whip instructions, which took effect on March 1 this year, any jockey found to be in breach of the rules in a grade or group one race is automatically referred to the Jockey Club.

If the disciplinary committee also find the jockey in breach they will suspend him for a minimum of ten days.

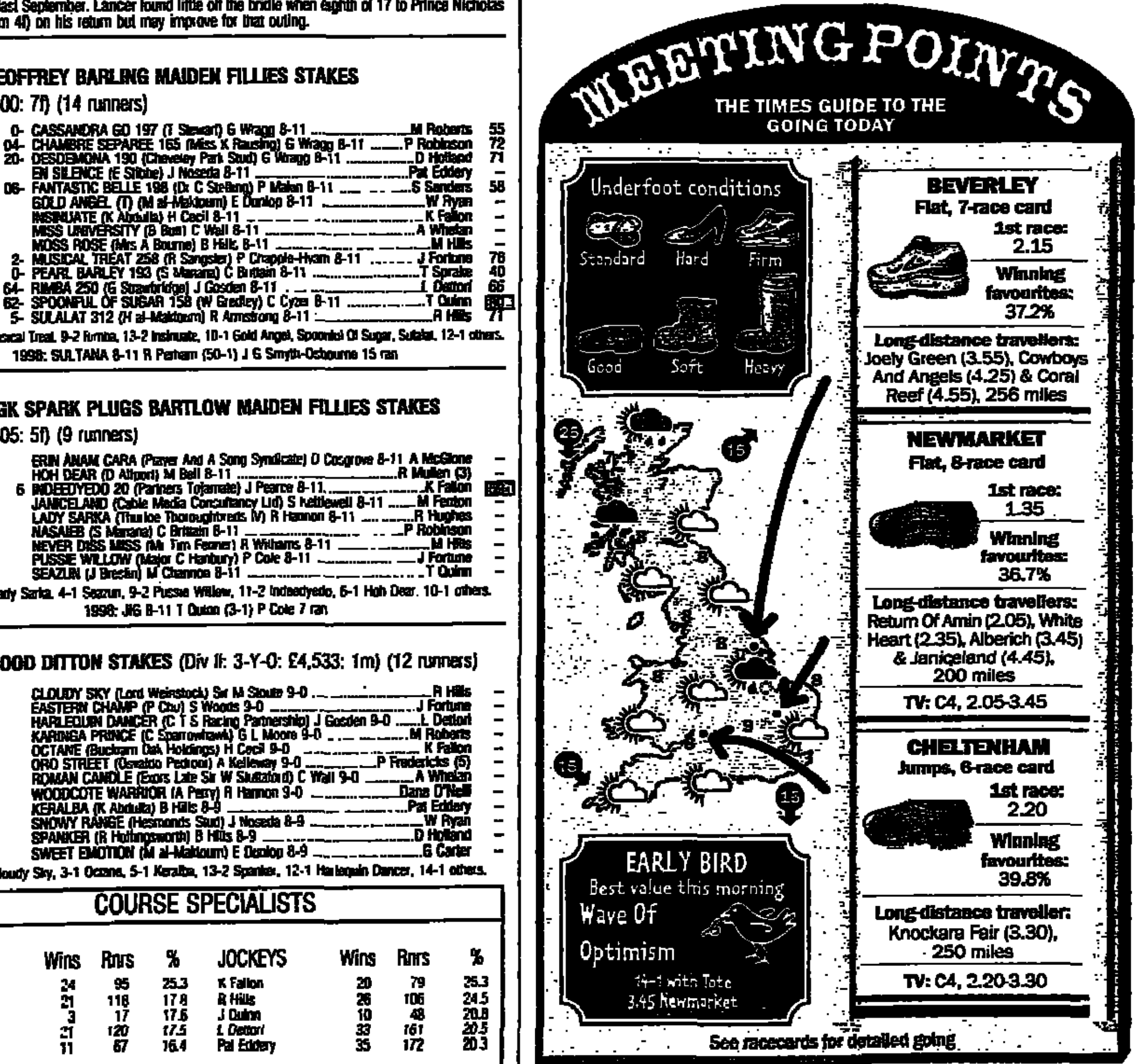
The suspension dates will normally take effect on consecutive days, like any other ban. However, the disciplinary committee will also have the flexibility to choose on which days the suspension should apply, although it is anticipated that they will only use this power in exceptional circumstances.

Murphy is the first jockey to be referred to the stewards of the Jockey Club for the use of the whip in a grade one race.

Andrew Thornton has not ruled out a return to action as soon as this Saturday, despite needing eight stitches in his left leg at Kelso on Monday.

"I really was pretty lame at Kelso, but by the time I got home last night I was walking about again. I was signed off for four days by the doctor and I am just doing as I am told — I have to keep the leg elevated for the next couple of days and get plenty of rest.

"There is no problem riding with the stitches in, provided it is not too painful, so with a bit of luck, I could even be back on Saturday."



CHELTENHAM

ROB WRIGHT

2.20 Zaitoon
2.55 Kinnahalla
3.30 Wilmott's Fancy
4.05 Lady Of Gortmerron (nap)
4.35 Daraydan
5.10 Masamadas

Timekeeper's top rating: 2.20 RELKANDER

GOING: GOOD SIS

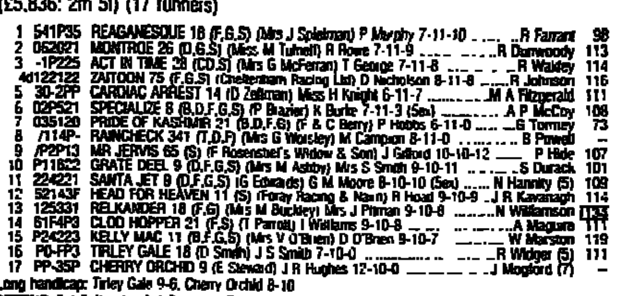
READING THE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F—fell. P—pulled up. U—unseated rider. B—brought down. S—slipped up. R—refused. D—disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: F if flat. (B—blinkers. V—visor. H—hood. E—Eyeshield. C—course winner. D—distance winner. CD—course and distance winner. BF—beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F—firm, good to firm, hard. G—good. S—soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. Timekeeper's speed rating.

2.20 LYNX EXPRESS NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (C4)

(£5,836: 2m 5f) (17 runners)



No.	Form	Horse (owner) trainer age-weight	Jockey	Rating
1	541P35	REAGANESQUE 18 (F,G,S) (Mrs J Spielman) P Murphy 7-11-10	R Farrant	98
2	062021	MONTROE 26 (D,G,S) (Miss M Tunnell) R Rowe 7-11-9	R Dunwoody	113
3	-1P225	ACT IN TIME 28 (CD,S) (Mrs G McFerran) T George 7-11-8	R Walley	114
4	d122122	ZAITOON 75 (F,G,S) (Cheltenham Racing Ltd) D Nicholson 8-11-8	R Johnson	116
5	30-2PP	CARDIAC ARREST 14 (D Zeliman) Miss H Knight 6-11-7	M A Fitzgerald	111
6	02P521	SPECIALIZE 8 (B,D,F,G,S) (P Brazier) K Burke 7-11-3 (5ex)	A P McCoy	108
7	035120	PRIDE OF KASHMIR 21 (B,D,F,G) (F & C Berry) P Hobbs 6-11-0	G Tormey	73
8	/114P-	RAINCHECK 341 (T,D,F) (Mrs G Worsley) M Campion 8-11-0	B Powell	—
9	/P2P13	MR JERVIS 65 (S) (F Rosenthal's Widow & Son) J Gifford 10-10-12	P Hide	107
10	P11622	GRATE DEEL 9 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs M Ashby) Mrs S Smith 9-10-11	S Durack	101
11	224221	SANTA JET 9 (D,F,G,S) (G Edwards) G M Moore 8-10-10 (5ex)	N Hannity (5)	109
12	52143F	HEAD FOR HEAVEN 11 (S) (Foray Racing & Nairn) R Hoad 9-10-9	J R Kavanagh	114
13	125331	RELKANDER 18 (F,G) (Mrs M Buckley) Mrs J Pitman 9-10-8	N Williamson	[illegible]
14	61F4P3	CLOD HOPPER 21 (F,S) (T Parrott) I Williams 9-10-8	A Maguire	111
15	P24223	KELLY MAC 11 (B,F,G,S) (Mrs V O'Brien) D O'Brien 9-10-7	W Marston	119
16	P0-FP3	TIRLEY GALE 18 (D Smith) J S Smith 7-10-0	R Widger (5)	111
17	PP-35P	CHERRY ORCHID 9 (E Steward) J R Hughes 12-10-0	J Mogford (7)	—

Long handicap: Tirley Gale 9-6, Cherry Orchid 8-10

BETTING: 5-1 Relkander, 6-1 Santa Jet, 7-1 Montroe, 8-1 Zaitoon, Specialize, Grate Deel, 10-1 Act In Time, Head For Heaven, Kelly Mac, 16-1 others.

1998: FLAT TOP 7-10-10 R Thornton (11-2) M W Easterby 13 ran

ANALYSIS Specialize won easily at Uttoxeter eight days ago and is likely to make a bold bid to follow up. A line through Dovetto, who finished second that day, gives him the clear beating of Clod Hopper and Pride Of Kashmir. The one to be on, though, looks ACT IN TIME. He made all over course *and distance on his comeback in December (only 7lb higher here)* and confirmed his liking for Prestbury Park when fifth to the ill-fated Deejaydee in the National Hunt Chase (4m) at the Festival meeting last month — being bang in contention three out only to run out of petrol. In between those efforts he had been anything but disgraced when chasing home Kurakka (at Sandown) and Looks Like Trouble (the subsequent SunAlliance Chase winner). He meets nothing of their calibre here. Santa Jet gained reward for his consistency when slamming Grate Deel by 27l at Wetherby (3m 1f) last week but that was a weak race and Relkander, who showed a pleasing attitude when rallying to beat Heavens Above a neck at Newbury (2½m) last time, makes more appeal.

2.55 GOLDEN MILLER HANDICAP CHASE (C4)

(£8,247: 3m 2f 110yd) (10 runners)



No.	Form	Horse (owner) trainer age-weight	Jockey	Rating
1	P53-PP	FATHER SKY 37F (B,D,F,G) (K Kornfeld) O Sherwood 8-12-0	J A McCarthy	97
2	1F31S3	THE GOPHER 193 (D,F,G,S) (A Bennett) D Wintle 10-11-11	W Marston	127
3	1/F1-5	GOD SPEED YOU 15 (B,D,F,G,S) (Wallop) C Morlock 10-11-6	J R Kavanagh	—
4	2P-124	MALWOOD CASTLE 39 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs U Wainwright) R Alner 9-11-3	R Widger (5)	119
5	1-4P34	PARAHANDY 18 (B,D,G,S) (G Heard) J Mullins 9-11-2	T J Murphy	102
6	-P4350	IN TRUTH 29 (C,G,S) (Mrs E Houlton) S Gollings 11-11-1	S Durack	74
7	23P412	GIGI BEACH 19 (BF,D,G,S) (C Paterson) P Nicholls 8-10-9	J Tizzard	123
8	P545P1	COOLE HILL 20 (G,S) (B Winfield & J Potter) D Nicholson 8-10-9	R Johnson	[illegible]
9	225221	KINNAHALLA 9 (G,S) (R Spencer) G Balding 7-10-5 (5ex)	F Keniry (7)	129
10	431221	MOORLAND HIGHFLYER 9 (D,G,S) (Unity Farm) A Hobbs 8-10-0 (5ex)	Mr D O'Meara (7)	121

BETTING: 7-2 Gigi Beach, 4-1 Coole Hill, 9-2 Kinnahalla, 13-2 Moorland Highflyer, 8-1 Malwood Castle, 9-1 In Truth, 10-1 Parahandy, 12-1 The Gopher, 16-1 God Speed You, 20-1 Father Sky.

1998: KENDAL CAVALIER 8-10-11 D Salter (6-1) B Millman 11 ran

COOLE HILL, out of sorts on soft ground earlier this campaign, bounced back to form on a sound surface at Wincanton last time — beating Steel Moss easing down by 17l. David Nicholson's mare has been raised 8lb for that win but is still able to race off a mark 6lb lower than at the start of the season and can follow up. Gigi Beach pulled out all the stops to beat Kinnahalla (has since won at Towcester) at Exeter (3m 6f) and proved he was in good heart when chasing home Prime Example at Kelso (4m) last time out. He looks the main danger. Moorland Highflyer put in one of his better rounds of jumping when beating Flapjack Lad 8l at Chepstow last week and, if picking up his feet again, would have each-way prospects. In Truth (out of form), The Gopher (may need the run), Parahandy (expensive to follow), Malwood Castle (ran poorly latest), God Speed You (soon tailed off on his belated return) and Father Sky (a rogue) are easy to pass over.

3.30 FAUCETS FOR MIRA RADA SHOWERS 'NH' AUCTION NOVICES HURDLE (C4)

(£16,491: 2m 5f 110yd) (9 runners)

No.	Form	Horse (owner) trainer age-weight	Jockey	Rating
1	450211	MASTER RASTUS 22 (S) (W Pelo) Mrs S Williams 6-11-8	A Maguire	93
2	-10U31	KNOCKARA FAIR 69 (S) (Mr & Mrs R Eileen) J Charlton 6-11-5	B Storey	103
3	41-21P	STORM CASTLE 42 (S) (N Cronin) D Arbuthnot 7-11-2	D Gallagher	91
4	20-32	FRANK BYRNE 131 (J Fishpool) J Old 7-11-1	T J Murphy	59
5	1503P	CONNOR MACLEOD 67 (G) (Autolour Engineering) Mrs J Pitman 6-10-12	R Dunwoody	95
6	3-2213	POWDER HOUND 22 (S) (Pell Mell Partners) I Williams 6-10-12	R Widger	108
7	2FP215	ASHGAN 18 (B,BF,D,G,S) (A & Mrs L Brazier) I Williams 6-10-9	A P McCoy	115
8	31-P22	GULLIBLE GUY 19 (F) (G Roberts) Miss V Williams 7-10-6	S Kelly	81
9	211323	WILMOTT'S FANCY 18 (S) (Mrs J Peutherer) Miss V Williams 7-10-5	N Williamson	[illegible]

BETTING: 5-2 Wilmott's Fancy, 9-2 Master Rastus, 6-1 Connor MacLeod, 7-1 Ashgan, Knockara Fair, 8-1 Storm Castle, Powder Hound, 10-1 Frank Byrne, Gullible Guy

1998: NO CORRESPONDING RACE.

WILMOTT'S FANCY has been a model of consistency all season and stands out on form. This trip suits her well and, in receipt of weight all round, she should take some stopping. Master Rastus has shown stamina to be his strong suit, winning easily at Taunton (3m) on his penultimate start before taking advantage of a lenient handicap mark at Uttoxeter (3m) latest. This drop in trip is a concern. Storm Castle narrowly defeated Master Rastus at Taunton in January but he was fortunate that day and, in any case, the runner-up has improved since. Connor MacLeod is better than he showed at Uttoxeter last time (pulled up on heavy going), while Jim Old rarely overfaces his horses so Frank Byrne, despite having shown only limited ability to date, warrants a second glance. Knockara Fair will be suited by this step up in distance but needs to brush up his jumping.

4.05 MITIE GROUP NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE

(£5,425: 3m 110yd) (16 runners)

No.	Form	Horse (owner) trainer age-weight	Jockey	Rating
1	142241	LADY OF GORTMERRON 36 (C,D,G,S) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-13	C Llewellyn	99
2	-13P04	HOLBORN HILL 30 (D,S) (J Brown) C Mann 7-11-5	J Magee	89
3	2R5321	YOU'RE AGOODUN 106 (B,S) (J Lamminman) M Pipe 7-11-2	A P McCoy	98
4	5-41P1	YORKSHIRE EDITION 9 (G,S) (R Ogden) P Nicholls 6-11-1 (7ex)	R Dunwoody	68
5	-32231	SILK VESTMENTS 21 (S) (Mrs J Dibben) Miss V Williams 7-10-13	N Williamson	103
6	02-344	DIE FLEDERMAUS 142 (BF) (Lady Vestey) Miss H Knight 5-10-11	M A Fitzgerald	106
7	0-033	GONE BALLISTIC 19 (Mrs B Lockhart) D Nicholson 6-10-11	R Massey	82
8	/43334	GREYCOAT BOY 36 (N Rimington) J King 7-10-9	L Cummins (3)	105
9	265401	L'IDEFIX 28 (G,S) (Mrs P Stevenson) T George 7-10-7	T Jenks	98
10	006544	VELMEZ 18 (V) (R Mathew) R Mathew 6-10-6	T J Murphy	101
11	013550	LIMIT THE DAMAGE 9 (S) (J Whyte) J Whyte 7-10-4	A Maguire	[illegible]
12	/20-20	CIARA CANE 11 (D Deacon) A Carroll 8-10-1	D McPhail (5)	89
13	234FP0	HIGHLAND JACK 86 (D,G) (K Gibbons & B Cardiff) A Turnell 9-10-0	R Farrant	104
14	466505	SHADIRWAN 36 (B) (C Popham) C Popham 8-10-0	B Powell	84
15	3-1350	LATE ENCOUNTER 9 (D,F,S) (S Brown) R Brown 8-10-0	S Kelly (3)	102
16	PPP	STATE FAIR 51 (Shake, Rattle & Roll) G Ham 5-10-0	F Keniry (7)	—

Long handicap: Highland Jack 9-12, Shadirwan 9-10, Late Encounter 9-3, State Fair 9-0

BETTING: 9-2 You're Agoodun, 6-1 Yorkshire Edition, 7-1 Gone Ballistic, 8-1 Lady Of Gortmerron, Silk Vestments, Die Fledermaus, L'Idefix, 10-1 others.

1998: GANPATI 7-11-7 C Llewellyn (5-2 fav) N Twiston-Davies 18 ran

4.35 PRESTBURY PARK HANDICAP HURDLE

(£6,814: 2m 5f 110yd) (8 runners)

No.	Form	Horse (owner) trainer age-weight	Jockey	Rating
1	321444	L'OPERA 60 (S) (Sheikh A al-Maktoum) D Nicholson 6-11-10	R Johnson	130
2	P50600	DARAYDAN 28 (CD,F,G,S) (D Johnson) M Pipe 7-11-5	A P McCoy	119
3	-5P520	BETTER OFFER 28 (F,S) (S Cohn) Mrs A Perrett 7-11-2	R Dunwoody	107
4	P13F05	CALL MY GUEST 25 (F,G,S) (D & Mrs J Clee) R Peacock 9-10-4	N Williamson	129
5	100103	FALMOUTH BAY 28 (G,S) (Mrs V James) E L James 10-10-2	J R Kavanagh	115
6	422130	CANTON VENTURE 148 (CD,F,G) (Dr F Chao) S Woods 7-10-0	P Hide	[illegible]
7	-3d346	DICTUM 42 (F,S) (Mrs R Humphries) Miss H Knight 8-10-0	D Gallagher	114
8	-54511	KINGSDOWN TRIX 9 (F,G) (Penhill Part'ship) R J Smith 5-10-0 (5ex)	J Goldstein (3)	110

Long handicap: Dictum 9-9, Kingsdown Trix 9-3.

BETTING: 5-2 Daraydan, 3-1 L'Opera, 5-1 Kingsdown Trix, 6-1 Call My Guest, 7-1 Better Offer, 8-1 Falmouth Bay, 16-1 Dictum, 20-1 Canton Venture

1998: SPENDID 6-11-8 A Maguire (9-4 fav) D Nicholson 9 ran

5.10 GEORGE DULLER JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE

(4-Y-O: £3,485: 2m 1f) (8 runners)

No.	Form	Horse (owner) trainer age-weight	Jockey	Rating
1	312401	NEW BIRD 9 (D,F,S) (P Clinton) D Nicholson 11-12	R Johnson	94
2	1	ALLGRIT 18 (F) (W Sturt) J Old 11-6	T J Murphy	54
3	3321	MASAMADAS 19 (F) (Thurloe Thoroughbreds IV) N Henderson 11-6	M A Fitzgerald	87
4	0301	STOPWATCH 9 (D,S) (Stopwatch Partnership) Mrs L Jewell 11-6	A Maguire	32
5	3152	EDWARDA 26 (BF,S) (R Stanley & Y Reynolds) M Pipe 11-1	A P McCoy	[illegible]
6	133624	MOTHERS HELP 54 (S) (Berkshire Ltd) D Williams 11-1	N Williamson	83
7	6	I WISH YOU LOVE 95 (Quintet) P Hobbs 11-0	R Dunwoody	54
8	P	SALFORD 79 (Silver Cod Partnership) P R Webber 11-0	J A McCarthy	—

BETTING: 9-4 Masamadas, 7-2 Allgrit, 9-2 New Bird, 11-2 Edwarda, 13-2 Mothers Help, 8-1 Stopwatch, 16-1 I Wish You Love, 50-1 Salford.

1998: NO CORRESPONDING RACE.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Wins	Rnrs	%
Miss V Williams	10	36	27.8	A McCoy	43	179	24.0
J King	5	25	20.0	N Williamson	33	168	19.6
Mrs J Pitman	12	73	16.4	R Dunwoody	26	178	14.6
C Mann	6	37	16.2	M Fitzgerald	23	164	14.0
O Sherwood	8	51	15.7	A Maguire	17	127	13.4
J Old	9	63	14.3	W Marston	8	64	12.5
M Pipe	45	328	13.7	R Farrant	5	43	11.6
R Alner	4	30	13.3	C Llewellyn	16	139	11.5
D Nicholson	29	222	13.1	T J Murphy	7	62	11.3
N Henderson	13	104	12.5	B Powell	7	62	11.3

BLINKERED FIRST TIME

BEVERLEY: 2.45 Untold Riches. CHELTENHAM: 2.20 Kelly Mac. 2.55 Parahandy. 4.05 Shadirwan. NEWMARKET: 3.45 Glory Of Grosvenor

Six added to Derby

SIX new contenders for the Vodafone Derby have been entered at the race's second entry stage. The sextet — Adair, Bienamado, Chatting, Killer Instinct, Montjeu and Val Royal — were entered at a cost of £8,000.

Adair was bought privately in America by Sheikh Mohammed's Godolphin operation, having won his only outing in impressive style. Prince Ahmed Salman's operation, The Thoroughbred Corporation, owns both the Henry Cecil-trained Killer Instinct and Chatting, trained by Sir Michael Stoute.

The Peter Chapple-Hyam [illegible] Bienamado, second to Spadoun when favourite for the group one Criterium de Saint-Cloud, will have his prep race for Epsom in either the Dante Stakes at York or the Prix Lupin at Longchamp.

Montjeu and Val Royal are two unbeaten colts from France.



Celtic putting faith in sprint finish

Kevin McCarra feels it is unlikely that Rangers can be overhauled in the Scottish championship race

IT IS more *danse macabre* than waltz, but the Old Firm are clasped together. They only have eyes for one another. For a while, the pair were estranged in the Scottish Premier League, but two consecutive defeats for Rangers, coupled with Celtic's ebullience over recent months, have re-established the intimate, fiery relationship.

Although separated by the breadth of the country, they engage in a duel this evening. Rangers play Dunfermline Athletic at Ibrox and Celtic are in Edinburgh to face Heart of Midlothian. A six-point lead in the table, with seven fixtures remaining, is the equivalent for the Ibrox club of an advantage in numbers on the battlefield.

TITLE RUN-IN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	29	19	5	5	64	27	62
Celtic	29	16	8	5	72	25	56
Kilmarnock	30	13	11	6	38	24	50
St Johnstone	29	12	9	8	35	36	45
Motherwell	30	8	10	12	31	43	34
Aberdeen	30	9	7	14	36	54	34
Dundee	30	9	6	15	26	51	33
Dundee Utd	29	7	8	14	29	37	29
Hearts	29	7	7	15	27	43	28
Dunfermline	29	4	15	10	23	41	27

RANGERS: Today: Dunfermline Athletic (H). **April 18:** Dundee (A). **April 25:** Aberdeen (H); **May 2:** Celtic (A); **May 9:** Heart of Midlothian (H). **May 15:** Motherwell (A); **May 22:** Kilmarnock (H)
CELTIC: Today: Heart of Midlothian (A). **April 17:** Motherwell (H). **April 24:** St Johnstone (A); **May 2:** Rangers (H). **May 8:** Dunfermline Athletic (A); **May 15:** Aberdeen (H). **May 22:** Dundee United (A).

It is soaring morale that sustains Celtic in the fray. In the unending bout of one-upmanship, yesterday belonged to them. While Rangers introduced Claudio Reyna, their new signing from VfL Wolfsburg, Celtic, by no coincidence whatsoever, chose the same afternoon to trump their rivals with the announcement that Henrik Larsson had signed a new contract that will last until 2003.

The Sweden forward is the most impressive player to have worn the green-and-white hoops since Kenny Dalglish and the attempts to re-sign him have been conducted over the past few months. Yet news of their successful outcome was released at a strategic moment. Allan MacDonald has replaced Fergus McCann as chief executive and a triumphant beginning to his tenure has been engineered.

Celtic, who have won six of their past seven league matches, are undefeated since they last played Hearts, at Tynecastle, on December 6. Merriment feels incongruous to those who remember how short-tempered the club was early in the season, when the failure to make *signings last summer* took its toll on form.

In Glasgow, moods, in much the same way as electrical storms, are spectacular and short-lived. Josef Venglos, the head coach, eventually dealt well in the transfer market and began to collect accolades. Attitudes, in a contrasting manner, have been just as transient for Dick Advocaat, the Rangers manager, who, initially, was lauded as disciplinarian and tactical sophisticate.

The virtues must still be there, but defeats by Dundee United and St Johnstone reawakened cantankerousness in the crowd. *Advocaat's* record in signings is flawed. Gabriel Amato, bought from Real Mallorca for £4.5 million, cannot command a regular place and may be sold at a loss to Valencia. Stéphane Guivarc'h has had no more *impact than he did at Newcastle* United. Modest displays by Andrei Kanchelskis leave his £5.5 million price tag looking like a coup for Fiorentina.

All the same, such acquisitions will be treated as a harmless, family joke so long as Rangers collect trophies. *Advocaat* is likely to triumph. His side has won the League Cup already and, after a sound 4-0 victory over St Johnstone in the semi-final, they will face the other half of the Old Firm in the Tennent's *Scottish Cup final. Prospects* in the championship are excellent.

The gaze falls on Rangers' trip to Celtic Park on May 2, but that may not be the decisive fixture. Four of Celtic's last seven games see them in *action on opposition grounds.* With only four wins in away matches in the league so far, Venglos's side has yet to prove that it is capable of reeling off victories over the closing weeks. Celtic's delays in appointing a coach and in *strengthening the squad* are still likely to meet with the punishment they deserve.

IAN STEWART



Larsson, the exciting Sweden forward, at Celtic Park yesterday after agreeing a new contract that will keep him at the club for the next four years

Giggs has legendary status there for the taking

BY STEPHEN WOOD

RYAN GIGGS was always the harbinger of the phenomenon of young, celebrity footballers that has characterised the decade. His early achievements were outlined in the first paragraph of one of his early literary works, *My Story*.

It was 1994 and Giggs had still not come of age as a man. The Manchester United player is now 25 and the intervening years have since added more winners' medals to his cabinet, more modelling poses to his photograph albums and more money to his bank account.

The achievements that lie in store for Giggs this season, however, are unparalleled, not just in his career, but in the history of football. As United plough relentlessly on, Giggs could become a member of the first English team to win the treble of league championship, FA Cup and European Cup in one season.

In 44 days, United would have to negotiate successfully their way through 11 matches. Nevertheless, it is not wise to question Giggs's powers of endurance. He was the teenager that used to rack up 85 matches a season; the young lad who would, every weekend, play two games of football for Dean's Boys Club, in Manchester, one for Salford schoolboys and throw in a rugby



Giggs: treble chance

league outing for Salford as a warm-down.

"People tell us how difficult our run-in is, but I think we still look fresh," Giggs said. "This is when the manager's decision to strengthen the squad and to rest players for certain games is of great benefit."

It is not just the quantity of fixtures that many observers feel could paralyse United, but the weight of importance that each one carries. Tonight, they face Arsenal in the FA Cup semi-final replay and, once the FA Carling Premiership match against Sheffield *Wednesday has been dealt* with on Saturday, United fly to Turin to meet Juventus, of Italy, in the second leg of the European Cup semi-final.

Yet Giggs insists that he and his colleagues will relish the tasks ahead. "This is the sort of situation you want to be involved in," he said. "We have to enjoy it now it's here and I honestly believe that we will look forward to each occasion.

"Winning has become a habit for us and, with a little bit of luck, we could win every match left this season. It would be great if we could do it."

If Giggs completes his medal collection with one from the European Cup final in Barcelona, on May 26, it would be legendary. That really would warrant an autobiography.

IN BRIEF

■ STEVE HOWEY, the Newcastle United defender, who was carried off in the FA Cup semi-final against Tottenham Hotspur on Sunday, will miss the Cup Final at Wembley next month. It was revealed last night that Howey has damaged Achilles' tendons and is unlikely to play for eight months.

Howey, who has played only a few of games in the past three years because of injury, said: "The good news is it isn't connected to my old calf injury."

■ Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, has been asked to help Japan before and during the 2002 World Cup finals, which Japan is hosting with South Korea.

■ Wolverhampton Wanderers are giving a trial to Steve Horvat, 24, an Australia central defender, who plays for Hajduk Split, of Croatia.

■ Aston Villa have announced plans to expand the capacity of their Villa Park stadium to more than 50,000 from its present limit of 39,372. The proposals also include a new shopping complex, hotel and industrial development.

■ The Scottish Football Association confirmed yesterday that there will be a straight 50-50 split of tickets at the Scottish Cup final between Rangers and Celtic next month. The May 29 game will be the first at the reopened 52,000-capacity Hampden Park and the demand for tickets is certain to outstrip supply.

Role of villainy is perfect for Riverside players

BY GEORGE CAULKIN

IT may be taking the narrowing divide with the world of showbusiness a mite too far, but if ever an award for Best Supporting Football Club was to be considered, Middlesbrough would undoubtedly be favourites to lift the gong. Spring would not be complete without its obligatory tales of drama and woe from the Riverside Stadium.

Since a decaying Ayresome Park hosted its final, cramped match four years ago, a season has never been concluded without some form of head-spinning activity. Player rebellion, outrageous new signings, promotion, relegation, periodic — if unsuccessful — trips to Wembley; the Teesside air seems to *come alive with vibrant controversy*. This year, it appears, will be no exception.

Although their own league position is unusually static — the prospect of silverware having long been dispelled, their safety was confirmed eight days ago — Middlesbrough are to be paid a visit by Chelsea tonight, heralding a month-long flurry that sees each of the FA Carling Premiership's three remaining championship contenders tread warily up the A19. Bryan Robson has suddenly become a kingmaker.

Leeds United, in fourth place, will also have a role to fill, given that they, too, face each of the teams immediately above them, although only Manchester United and Arsenal still face the daunting journey to Elland Road. It is Middlesbrough, where just one away victory has been forthcoming in the past 18 months, that salvation or damnation will be garnered.

In the short term, Chelsea have the greatest incentive — win tonight, while Arsenal and United are otherwise engaged replaying their FA Cup semi-final, and they return to the head of the pack; lose or draw and the impetus begins to seep away. It begets a prominence that Robson relishes, even though many will suspect that his long-time allegiance to Old Trafford might *influence his stance.*

Although he denies it, the Middlesbrough manager was sporting a coy grin while rebutting the charge yesterday. "If we beat Chelsea and Arsenal and then United beat us, then Alex Ferguson [the Manchester United manager] will probably buy me a drink," Robson said. "I'm sure everybody at Arsenal and everybody at Manchester United will be delighted even if we manage only to take a draw from Chelsea because it would be another game out of the way."

If that response contained the merest hint of an anti-Chelsea tone, it was another suggestion that Robson laid to rest. Twice, over the past two seasons, the Londoners have emerged victorious from finals of both domestic cup competi*tions, while Middlesbrough's* 2-0 defeat at Stamford Bridge last September is regarded by players and coaching staff as a particularly effete performance.

However, what all three title contenders will encounter is a vastly different challenge from the sweet-flowing, brittle team that last took its place in the highest division. Irregular cameos from Paul Gascoigne aside, Robson's is now a collective unit, modelled on fitness and experience, marshalled by Andy Townsend and Robbie Mustoe in midfield and by Gary Pallister, the former United defender, in defence. They may not be leading players, but they are certainly familiar with the glare of the spotlight.



Robson: kingmaker's role

Jones finally exonerated over the goal that wasn't

Russell Kempson talks to the referee who has gone from FA Cup controversy to Wembley

TWO months ago, Peter Jones found himself at the centre of worldwide attention. He refereed the FA Cup fifth-round tie between Arsenal and Sheffield United at Highbury and allowed the infamous goal by Marc Overmars that redefined the boundaries of sportsmanship. He adhered to the rulebook, yet kept a low profile as the moral indignation swirled around him.

Two days ago, Jones was appointed to take charge of the Cup Final between Newcastle United and either Manchester United or Arsenal next month. He received a message from the Football Association, quickly returned the call *and* was asked *if he* would be available on May 22. He was. It completes his journey from the dozen park pitches of Loughborough Aerodrome in Leicestershire — on which, at 19, he started his career — to Wembley, the Venue of Legends.

The chaotic scenes at Highbury had not harmed his chances of refereeing the final — he took charge of the rematch, anyway — and he recalls the events with clarity and conviction. "I felt comfortable about my decision because I knew I had done the right thing," Jones, 45, said yesterday.

The furore was sparked when, with the score at 1-1, the ball was put out of play to allow treatment to an injured Sheffield United player. Instead of returning it to their opponents, Arsenal broke the unwritten code of sportsmanship by scoring through Overmars. Within an hour of the final whistle, the club's offer of a rematch had been approved by the FA.

"It was an unusual situation, a one-off, but you have to *make some tough calls as a referee* and I did what I had to," Jones said. "My mind was clear, I knew I had to restart the game, but it was an unsatisfactory outcome at the end. I came off thinking something *might* happen later. What had gone on wasn't normal.

"I was pleased to be re-appointed for the second game. That's the way it should have been. At the time, I never thought about the possibility of getting the final or how the game might affect my chances. I was really honoured to get on the Fifa list in 1996 — representing your country is something special — but I suppose this has to be the pinnacle."

It will be the sixth visit to Wembley for Jones, a BT account manager from Lough*borough. He has been fourth* official on four occasions and took charge of the Coca-Cola Cup final between Chelsea and Middlesbrough last season. Since joining the Fifa list, he has had 30 appointments in 20 countries, including his first European Cup fixture — FK Obilic, of Yugoslavia, against IBV Vestmannaeyja, of Iceland — last July.

Jones has no game in the FA Carling Premiership this weekend, but will try to arrange a run-out at Loughborough Aerodrome, where it all began with his friend, Brien Smith, for £2 a match 26 years ago. "It's not so big now, there's been a fair bit of building on it," he said, "so hopefully I might get promoted to pitch five."



Jones: playing by the book

FOR THE RECORD

BASEBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: NY Mets 8 Florida 1. Chicago Cubs 2 Cincinnati 7. Colorado 5 San Diego 8 (11 innings). Philadelphia 6 Atlanta 8. Arizona 12 Los Angeles 6

Eastern division

	W	L	Pct	GB
NY Mets	6	2	750	-
Atlanta	5	3	625	1
Philadelphia	4	4	500	2
Montreal	3	4	429	2½
Florida	2	5	286	3½

Central division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Pittsburgh	4	2	667	-
ST Louis	3	3	500	1
Houston	3	3	500	1
Cincinnati	3	4	429	1½
Milwaukee	2	4	.333	2
Chicago Cubs	2	5	286	2½

Western division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Francisco	6	1	857	-
Los Angeles	5	2	714	1
San Diego	4	4	500	2½
Colorado	2	5	286	4
Arizona	2	5	.286	4

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Cleveland 5 Kansas City 2 (10 innings). Detroit 0 Minnesota 1 (12 innings). Texas 5 Anaheim 13. Toronto 7 Tampa Bay 1. Seattle 6 Oakland 3

Eastern division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	5	1	833	-
NY Yankees	5	1	833	-
Toronto	4	3	571	1½
Tampa Bay	3	4	429	2½
Baltimore	2	4	333	3

Central division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	6	1	.857	-
Kansas City	3	4	429	3
Minnesota	3	4	429	3
Chi White Sox	2	4	333	3½
Detroit	1	6	143	5

Western division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Anaheim	4	3	571	-
Seattle	4	3	571	-
Texas	3	4	429	1
Oakland	2	5	286	2

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Boston 103 Cleveland 89. Toronto 99 Indiana 109. Detroit 86 Charlotte 92. Minnesota 90 Houston 95. San Antonio 94 Phoenix 77. Utah 98 Vancouver 80. Denver 96 Golden State 104.

BOWLS

MELTON MOWBRAY: English indoor national championships: Triples: Quarter-finals: Blackpool Borough bt Worthing Pavilion 22-15. Grantham bt East Dorset 18-15. Chipping Norton bt Avon Valley. Stanley bt Bridgwater BCL 18-14.

NEW LOUNT, Leicestershire: England international trial (May 30): Red team: Rink 1: R Brittan, G Ashby (Warwicks), J Bowman (Leics), K Smith (Bucks) **Rink 2:** R Sampson (Oxon), A Baxter (Cumbs), R Newman (Berks), D Holt (Lancs) **Rink 3:** M Coles (Herts), I Jenkins (Middx), R Moses (Sussex), A Hollis (Leics) **Rink 4:** A Prew (Oxon), M Bennett (Northumb), S Thomas (Warwicks), S Farish (Cumbs). **Rink 5:** B Morley (Notts), S Skelton (Lincs), N Jones (Hants), A E Thomson (Kent). **Rink 6:** J Ottaway, M King (Norfolk), S Tuohy (Middx), D J Cutler (Devon) **White team: Rink 1:** A Wills (Glos), S Airey (Cumbs), I Bond (Devon), A Allcock (Glos) **Rink 2:** D Morgan (Hants), M Read (Corn), L Miller (Cambs), S Warren (Wilts) **Rink 3:** Greg Moon (Oxon), R Stanley, G Burgess (Worcs), D Denison (Devon) **Rink 4:** J Rednall (Suffolk), L Gillett (Oxon), C Palmer, J Leeman (Durham) **Rink 5:** N Chandler (Glos), A Kirtland (Durham), N Brignall (Yorks), J Strading (Berks) **Rink 6:** P Barlow (Cumbria), W Jackson (Lincs), I Mayne (Lancs), D Brown (Lincs) **Reserves:** P Barr (Norfolk), M Harrison (Yorks).

ETON FIVES

KINNAIRD CUP NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS: Third round: R Mason and J Mole bt S Plummer and P Bowden 12-1, 12-1, 12-1; S Cooley and A Varma bt J Fleming and F Rudman 6-12, 12-6, 8-12, 12-8, 13-11, M Hughes and M Lascelles bt R Horne and R Beenstock 12-5, 12-1, 12-7, E Wass and J Halstead bt C Cooley and D Hawkins 12-9, 12-6, 12-1; H Wiseman and P Markkanen bye. M Williams and J Pinner bt J Rose and J Luddy 12-3, 12-1, 12-3; J Toop and M Wiseman bt P Sarmah and P Cohen 12-0, 12-1, 12-3. E Taylor and J Reynolds bye. **Quarter-finals:** Mason and Mole bt Cooley and Varma 12-3, 12-7, 12-3. Wass and Halstead bt M Hughes and Lascelles 12-5, 12-1, 12-7. H Wiseman and Markkanen bt Williams and Pinner 15-11, 12-8, 12-10. Toop and M Wiseman bt Taylor and Reynolds 7-12, 12-7, 7-12, 12-2, 12-1. *Pepperpot Trophy: Semi-finals:* D Mew and S Fautly bt N Cox and P Black 12-3, 12-4, 12-5. S Woolfries and G Pulsford bt T Chamberlain and P Lyndon 12-10, 12-7, 12-3. **Final:** Mew and Fautly bt Woolfries and Pulsford 15-14, 12-10, 12-5

FOOTBALL

Monday's late results

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Leeds United 0 Liverpool 0

NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE: Kidderminster 4 Northwich 0, Stevenage 5 Woking 0

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Emley 1 Hyde 1

RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Postponed: Dag and Red v Chesham

FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLIANCE: Premier division: Walsall 0 Rotherham 7

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Wolverhampton 1 Cradley 4

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: *First division:* Fulham 5 Millwall 2; Norwich 0 West Ham 3. Wimbledon 3 Watford 2

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Stoke 3 Everton 2. **Second division:** Newcastle 0 Sheffield Utd 1

NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE: First division: Clitheroe 0 Workington 1

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Seaham 0 Bedlington 1

COMPLETE MUSIC HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: North Leigh 1 Highworth 0.

SCHWEPPES ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: *Premier division:* Ilford 5 Southend Manor 1.

UHLSPORT: UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Wellingborough 1 Spalding 4

ARGENTINE LEAGUE: River Plate 2 Independiente 1, Velez Sarsfield 3 Lanus 2; San Lorenzo 1 Talleres 0; Estudiantes de La Plata 1 Rosario Central 1, Belgrano 3 Gimnasia Esgrima de La Plata 1, Argentinos Juniors 1 Huracan 2; Colon 0 Union 0; Newell's Old Boys 0 Boca Juniors 1, Racing Club 2 Gimnasia de Jujuy 0

BRAZILIAN LEAGUES: *São Paulo:* Second stage: Mogi Mirim 2 Guarani 1, Corinthians 1 Barbarense 3, Matonense 0 São Paulo 4, Portuguesa Santista 1 Santos 5, Palmeiras 2 Rio Branco 1, Portuguesa 1 Internacional Limeira 1

GOLF

WORLD RANKINGS: Leading positions (United States unless stated): 1, D Duval 13.35pts, 2, T Woods 11.57; 3, D Love III 11.40, 4, E Els (SA) 9.07, 5, M O'Meara 9.00, 6, V Singh (Fiji) 8.89; 7, L Westwood (Eng) 8.72, 8, N Price (Zim) 8.59, 9, C Montgomerie (Scot) 8.13, 10, J Furyk 7.20; 11, P Mickelson 7.08, 12, J Leonard 6.97, 13, F Couples 6.72; 14, M Ozaki (Japan) 6.66; 15, J Maggert 6.02, 16, P Stewart 5.65, 17, S Elkington (Aus) 5.47; 18, D Clarke (Ire) 5.42, 19, J M Olazábal, Spain, 5.35; 20, J Parnevik (Swe) 5.31.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Washington 2 Chicago 4; New Jersey 2 NY Islanders 4, Ottawa 0 Florida 2; NY Rangers 2 Tampa Bay 1. Nashville 3 Los Angeles 4. Calgary 0 Vancouver 2; San Jose 4 Edmonton 5 (OT)

COPENHAGEN: World championship: Pool B: Estonia 2 Great Britain 6

SPEEDWAY

CRAVEN SHIELD: Wolverhampton 48 King's Lynn 42

EXETER: International match: England Under-21 35 Sweden Under-23 55

SQUASH

PARSDORF, Germany: Citroën Classic: Women: Final: M Martin (Aus) bt C Jackman (Eng) 7-9, 9-3, 9-5, 9-5.

HELSINKI: Ajanpaino Finnish Open: Final: O Eboroløssy (Egypt) bt D Palmer (Aus) 12-15, 15-11, 15-11, 15-7

TENNIS

TOKYO: Japan Open: Men: First round: H Kaneko (Japan) bt M Knowles (Bahamas) 6-3, 6-4; M Chang (US) bt M Hill (Aus) 7-6, 6-7, 7-6, J van Lottum (Neth) bt N Escude (Fr) 6-2, 6-4, P Goldstein (US) bt H Dreekmann (Ger) 7-5, 6-4, B Karbacher (Ger) bt S Campbell (US) 6-2, 7-6, D Nestor (Can) bt C Vinck (Ger) 4-6, 6-3, 6-3. L Burgsmüller (Ger) bt P Wessels (Neth) 6-3, 3-6, 6-2. R Stepanek (Cz) bt J Tarango (US) 7-5, 6-4 M Sell (US) bt M Woodforde (Aus) 7-6, 2-6, 6-3, G Pozzi (It) bt R Wassen (Neth) 6-2, 6-3, C Mamit (US) bt B MacPhie (US) 7-6, 6-2. S Schalken (Neth) bt W Black (Zim) 6-4, 6-1 rtd, P Srichaphan (Thai) bt V Santopadre (It) 6-3, 7-6, K Carlsen (Den) bt R Schuttler (Ger) 6-2, 6-4, M Tillstrom (Swe) bt J Krosiak (Slovakia) 7-6, 6-4; J Knippschild (Ger) bt B Steven (NZ) 6-2, 7-5; W Arthurs (Aus) bt M Rodriguez (Arg) 6-4, 6-3. **Women: First round:** K-A Guse (Aus) bt L Andretto (Fr) 6-4, 6-3; M Tu (US) bt M Shaughnessy (US) 6-3, 7-5

BARCELONA: Men's tournament: First round: M Zabaleta (Arg) bt S Grosjean (Fr) 7-6, 6-7, 6-1; F Mantilla (Sp) bt G Blanco (Sp) 6-2, 6-0; A Portas (Sp) bt A Medvedev (Ukr) 6-4, 6-1; B Ulihrach (Cz) bt F Roig (Sp) 7-6, 6-1; M Puerta (Arg) bt A Voinea (Rom) 6-3, 7-6; T Carbonell (Sp) bt J C Ferrero (Sp) 6-3, 4-6, 6-4. A Martin (Sp) bt J Novak (Cz) 6-0, 6-1, J A Marin (C Rica) bt F Costa (Bra) 6-3, 7-6; V Spadea (US) bt M Norman (Swe) 6-4, 6-3; A Costa (Sp) bt A Gaudenzi (It) 6-3, 6-2. **Second round:** Y El Aynaoui (Mor) bt A Corretja (Sp) 7-6, 6-3

WORLD RANKINGS: *Leading positions:* Men: 1, P Sampras (US) 3,535pts 2, C Moyà (Sp) 3,453; 3, Y Kafelnikov (Russ) 3,382; 4, R Krajicek (Neth) 3,119; 5, A Corretja (Sp) 3,101, 6, P Rafter (Aus) 2,978, 7, T Henman (GB) 2,633; 8, T Martin (US) 2,439; 9, M Philippoussis (Aus) 2,264 10, K Kucera (Slovakia) 2,253; 11, A Agassi (US) 2,219; 12, G Rusedski (GB) 2,126; 13, M Rios (Chile) 2,123; 14, A Costa (Sp) 2,025; 15, G Ivanisevic (Cro) 1,929; 16, T Enqvist (Swe) 1,898; 17, G Kuerten (Bra) 1,631; 18, T Haas (Ger) 1,600; 19, F Mantilla (Sp) 1,591; 20, T Johansson (Swe) 1,585.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

FA Cup
Semi-final replay
Arsenal v Man Utd (at Villa Park, 7.45)

FA Carling Premiership
Middlesbrough v Chelsea (7.45)

Nationwide League
Second division
Manchester City v Luton (7.45)
Millwall v Colchester (7.45)
Stoke v Wycombe (7.45)

Third division
Scarborough v Darlington

Nationwide Conference
Doncaster v Northwich (7.45)
Forest Green v Barrow (7.45)

Bank of Scotland
Scottish Premier League
Hearts v Celtic (7.45)
Rangers v Dunfermline (7.45)

Scottish League
First division
Clydebank v Ayr

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Boston v Tamworth. **Southern division:** St Leonards v Fisher London. **Midland division:** RC Warwick v Moor Green, Wisbech Town v Stafford

UNIBOND LEAGUE: First division: Bradford Pk Ave v Ashton United

RYMAN LEAGUE: First division: Croydon v Oxford City. Wealdstone v Wembley. **Third division:** Tring v Aveley.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Brighton v Barnet (7.0); Cambridge v Brentford (2.0). Gillingham v Chelsea. Ipswich v Tottenham (7.0), Oxford v Watford, Swindon v Southampton (7.15). Reading v Bournemouth (at Thatcham Town)

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Everton v Blackburn (7.0), Nottingham Forest v Sunderland (7.0), Preston v Derby (at Bamber Bridge FC, 7.15). **First division:** Barnsley v Oldham (7.0); Burnley v Wolverhampton (7.15). Grimsby v Middlesbrough (7.0). Port Vale v Bolton (7.0). **Second division:** Bradford v Shrewsbury (2.0). Newcastle v Lincoln (7.0). Stockport v Huddersfield (7.0). Wrexham v Blackpool (7.0). York v Notts County (7.0). **Third division:** Chesterfield v Halifax (2.0). Hartlepool v Carlisle (2.0). Hull v Scunthorpe (2.0). Rochdale v Chester (2.0). Walsall v Bury (2.0)

LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth v *Cwmbran*

GILBERT LEAGUE CUP: Semi-final: Caernarfon v Bangor City (7.45)

FA PREMIER ACADEMY LEAGUE: Play offs, first round: Under-19: Crewe v Peterborough (1.30). Everton v Leicester (2.0) **Under-17:** Bristol City v Barnsley (3.30)

SCHWEPPES ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Eton Manor v Basildon U.

COMPLETE MUSIC HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Almondsbury v Burnham. Fairford v Banbury. Highworth v Hallen

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN LEAGUE: League Cup: Semi-final: Jarrow Roofing v South Shields

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: Premier division: Canterbury v Herne Bay. Cray v Erith.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Chippenham v Odd Down

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Smethwick Rangers v Star; Stafford Town v Tipton Town; Wolverhampton v Brierley Hill Town

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Downton v Portsmouth. Hamble ASSC v Christchurch. Moneyfields v Bemerton Heath

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Eastbourne Town v Hassocks

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Hallam v Thackley.

NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE: First division: Leek CSOB v Kidsgrove. Ramsbottom v Vauxhall GM; St Helens Town v Atherton LR.

CRICKET

PPP Healthcare
county championship
11.0, first day of four
104 overs minimum
EDGBASTON: Warwickshire v Northamptonshire
11.0, second day of four
104 overs minimum
CHESTER-LE-STREET: Durham v Worcestershire
CHELMSFORD: Essex v Lancashire
OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire v Sussex
LORD'S: Middlesex v Kent
THE OVAL: Surrey v Gloucestershire

University matches
11.30, first day of three
THE PARKS: Oxford University v Hampshire
11.30, final day of three
TRENT BRIDGE: Nottinghamshire v Cambridge University

RUGBY LEAGUE

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Haworth v West Hull (7.30). Wigan St Patrick's v Leigh MR (7.30). Woolston v Saddleworth (7.30). **First division:** East Leeds v Featherstone Lions (7.0); Leigh East v Wigan St Jude's (7.0). Moldgreen v Dudley Hill (7.0). Rochdale Mayfield v Siddal (7.0). **Second division:** Blackbrook v Keighley Albion (8.0). Crosfields v Eccles (7.0), Normanton v Dodworth (7.0)

RUGBY UNION

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: RAF v Royal Navy (at Gloucester, 7.0).

AIB LEAGUE: Second division: Portadown v UCC (7.0)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser play-off championship: Quarter-finals, second leg: Sheffield Sharks v Greater London Leopards (at Ponds Forge ISC, 7.45); Thames Valley Tigers (91) v Derby Storm (87) (8.0)

CRICKET

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YESTERD...

CRICKET

England need to rethink batting tactics

FROM RICHARD HOBSON IN SHARJAH

PRACTICE matches ahead of an important tournament must always be approached with a degree of trepidation. Fresh difficulties can arise as easily as existing problems are solved. England arrived here less than a fortnight ago with a batting strategy for the World Cup firmly in mind, but they return home today with the form of the top order a matter for serious concern.

Even though earlier failures ensured that it would carry no bearing on the Coca-Cola Cup, the victory against Pakistan at the CBFS Stadium on Monday night provided considerable relief after seven successive one-day defeats stretching back to the Carlton and United series in Australia. Yet the 62-run win, however emphatic in the end, was gained despite another indifferent start.

In each of the four games against India and Pakistan, the finalists here on Friday, England lost their fourth wicket with the score below 100. Stewart, in particular, endured a lean tournament, scoring 42 runs from four innings. It is imperative that he spends time at the crease for Surrey before England gather at Canterbury on May 2 to begin training ahead of practice matches against Kent, Essex and Hampshire that precede the main event. He intends to play in at least one National League and one PPP Healthcare county championship fixture.

"Our batting has not functioned as a unit and some people need runs under their belts," David Graveney, the chairman of selectors and tour manager, said. "Sometimes when we chase runs, the fragility of our batting becomes very evident, particularly when the opposition have top-class spin bowlers. We are not alone in finding it far more difficult to chase than to defend a total in the field."

England must decide how far to shape the batting order towards aggression in the first 15 overs, when only two fielders are allowed outside the 30-metre ring. Conditions helping seam and swing will militate against batsmen attempting to hit through the line and the selectors may revert to an orthodox batting order of Stewart, Knight, Hick, Thorpe and Fairbrother, rather than promote Flintoff or Ealham, when the World Cup begins against Sri Lanka on May 14.

Poor results in Sharjah reflected unease with the conditions and the handicap of batting second in the first three games. Some of the strategy, too, was questionable. To hold back Fairbrother to No 8 in the second game against India was a waste of the best one-day batsman in the side. The Indians assumed that he must have been injured.

Hoping to compete successfully against players at ease in extreme heat and experienced on low, slow pitches in the hope of stringing together a sequence of victories to raise confidence ahead of the World Cup always seemed to be over-optimistic. A second defeat by Pakistan might have removed all self-belief from a squad unhappy at the way the issue of contracts for the World Cup has been allowed to drift.

The assurance of Flintoff and return to fitness of Thorpe, who scored 79 and 62 in the last two matches, represent the most obvious benefits of the trip. Ealham recovered form to take four wickets on Monday, when he also scored an important 36, while Fraser returned to the side to restrict batsmen to three runs an over in the first half of the innings. Early fears that Mullally might have to miss the World Cup because of a side strain have proved to be unfounded.

"To have stayed in England at the mercy of the weather would have been counter-productive," Graveney said. "It has been a chance to get together and build team spirit. Regrettably, as far as that was concerned, the on-going spat about contracts has not helped at all."

The discontent that simmered throughout the trip was unleashed on Tim Lamb when the chief executive of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) saw the players at the team hotel after the victory over Pakistan. The meeting lasted around two hours.

Although they seem certain to agree to the terms before the ECB deadline of April 26, it will be unnatural if resentment towards the board does not linger. As Graveney said, it has not been a happy squad going about its work.

Vinod Kambli hit the winning boundary that gave India a six-wicket victory over Pakistan in the Coca-Cola Cup in Sharjah yesterday. Salim Malik and Moin Khan made battling half-centuries for Pakistan, enabling them to reach a total of 205 from the allotted 50 overs. Both teams have already secured a place in the final on Friday, but were taking the dress rehearsal seriously.


CHRIS HARRIS

Maiden voyage: Jane Saxton, left, and Evelyn Pond make history as they clap Justin Langer, the Kent opener, on to the pitch at Lord's

Lord's, ladies and gentlemen . . .

Sarah Potter on the day hairspray and pink tissues made it into the Long Room

THERE was no need to panic after all. There was drama, but it came a couple of hours later than some of the crustier members might have imagined, when two claps of thunder chased off a snowstorm. Two hours earlier, with no more than a polite murmur of excitement, the 211-year male-only reign of the Long Room at Lord's came to an end.

Twenty-one women worshippers claimed their pews among the throng of a hundred or so in cricket's most famous cathedral. Little matter that the sky was slate grey and the game doomed to a soggy end. Most of those who came did so to soak up the atmosphere inside the pavilion, not the action out in the middle.

They started early, determined to enjoy the day. A group of four women, all holding blue Middlesex membership cards, flashed cameras and wide smiles as they stepped over the threshold. "I've been in the pavilion before to watch a University match," Hilary Bruce said. "My husband is a member, so I came as his guest. But the doormen are much less begrudging this time. I think they must have been sent to charm school."

Julia Northover, a pensioner from North London, was inside early enough to claim the autographs of some of her heroes as they skipped up the steps after practice. "I did the tour of Lord's once," she said, "but this is the first time I've been in to watch the cricket. I'm a Middlesex member and it's wonderful."

Even the umpires were touched by some of the goodwill. John Harris and Tony Clarkson had to pose for photographs en route to the square as a tall woman laughed guiltily between them. If the no photography rule was being shamelessly broken, all other behaviour was strictly in keeping with the Victorian splendour of the surroundings.

It was too cold for even the most hot-blooded female to disregard the dress code. There were no skin-tight leggings and not a bare shoulder in sight. Most women donned dark-coloured, conservative suits, though one bright red overcoat sent a zing of warm colour through the oil-painted reserve of the shrine.

Every layer was welcome for, outside, a face-slapping north wind soon brought heavy rain. Even Father Time had to swivel away from the white-clad figures below. "The folly of man," he seemed to be whispering behind his stooped back, "trying to play cricket in April."

Sure enough, the covers were soon on. Members and their guests shuffled out of the Long Room. A few sought the haven of the "gentlemen only" Bowlers' Bar, others were happy to share beef baps and chitchat in the Long Room Bar.

Spending a penny did not, however, come as easily as it should. There was not a sign in sight, but three new toilets were located eventually near the dressing-rooms. The pine seats, hairspray and pink tissues were damning evidence. Lord's has opened its doors to welcome the ladies — and survived.

Winter's tale a familiar one

LORD'S (first day of four: Kent won toss): Middlesex have scored 16 for one wicket against Kent

SNOW, rain, bad light, lightning, thunder, a brief glimpse of sunshine — and hardly any cricket. For the opening day of the new season at Lord's, it would have been unwise to expect a great deal more (Ivo Tennant writes). In the ten overs that were possible, Middlesex, who were put in to bat by Matthew Fleming, lost one of their openers.

Michael Roseberry, now back with Middlesex after four rather unproductive years with Durham, was bowled by a trimmer from Headley when a restart was made in late afternoon. There was some watchful defence from Langer, but that was about all.

Kent have come up with a nickname for themselves in the forthcoming National League. The last side to do so, they are to be "Kent Spitfires" on account of the county's links with the Battle of Britain.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Broncos show way forward

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THE game's tentacles will reach six additional towns and cities in the second summer season of the highly successful Rugby League Conference (RLC), which should be receive a fillip from the appearance of London Broncos in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final at Wembley before it starts on May 8.

At the launch of the 1999 season in London yesterday, Lionel Hurst, the RLC chairman, said that the appearance in the final at Wembley of Dominic Peters, who played for West London in the Conference last year, and the addition by the Broncos of Darrell Griffen, the Conference young player of the year with Oxford, to its trainee programme, were "proof positive" of the game's growing national profile.

Rugby league's switch to summer has assisted the cause of expansion, with many rugby union players trying their hand at the game. Crewe, Derby, Nottingham, Wolverhampton, Hemel Hempstead and Manchester (formerly Tameside) have joined the list of places where rugby league has a foothold, which is consistent with Hurst's ambition of a club in every sizeable place in England within five years.

Twelve of the 20 clubs are setting up junior sections, which Hurst said was pivotal to growth, along with the Broncos "spreading the word" in the South. Coventry and Newmarket had applications deferred and five more have been received for next year.

RUGBY LEAGUE CONFERENCE: West division: Cheltenham, Worcester, Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Leicester. **North division:** Chester, Crewe, Derby, Nottingham, Manchester. **East division:** St Albans, West London, Crawley, North London, Oxford. **South division:** Ipswich, Cambridge, South Norfolk, Bedford, Hemel Hempstead. **Regional finals: August 7:** South winners v East winners (Stoop Memorial Grand, Twickenham). **August 15:** North winners v West winners (Warrington). **Grand final:** August 21 (New River Stadium, London)

□ Henry and Robbie Paul, of Bradford Bulls, were named yesterday in the New Zealand team for the Anzac Day international against Australia in Sydney on Friday, April 23. The brothers were automatic selections after helping New Zealand to an historic series triumph on British soil last year. Robbie Paul will play at stand-off half while Henry Paul has been drafted in as at hooker.

Butcher passes endurance test

BY GEOFFREY DEAN

THE OVAL (Gloucestershire won toss): Surrey have scored 124 for no wicket against Gloucestershire

ANY reservations that Surrey's players held about a frosty week's physical training with the Royal Marines in March ought to have been dispelled at a raw, gale-swept and virtually deserted Oval yesterday.

"The hardship and foul conditions" of Lympstone — in the the words of the county's quarterly magazine — were ideal preparation for the 47-over endurance test that Mark Butcher and Ian Ward survived yesterday.

In beastly weather, where hail coated the outfield at lunch and fielders' whites flapped like sails in a force ten, the Gloucestershire players must have cursed the ill-fortune of Mark Alleyne, their captain, in winning the toss. The prospect of a stop-start day, with rain around, demanded an insertion, but so little did the ball seam on the flat, true pitch, and so ably did Butcher and Ward play that a wicket never looked like falling. Not until the twentieth over was the bat beaten.

In short, it was far too cold for the ball to swing. Smith tried in vain to reproduce the lavish movement in the air of his last visit here two years ago, when Gloucestershire won comfortably. Lately, they have been Surrey's bogey team, with a thrilling victory against the odds at Cheltenham last year.

Butcher looked a class act in the earliest first-class century opening stand in the Oval's history. Only when he had reached 48 did he play and miss. He signalled his fifty with a tenth four.

Ward, his fellow left-hander, also hit some fine shots, driving solidly and pulling gamely. Fortunate to edge Ball just wide of slip when on 46, he reached a worthy half-century from 131 balls.

Harvey, the visitors' overseas signing, varies his pace cleverly and it was with a slower ball that he nearly bowled Butcher in the gloom.

Champions get chilly reception

BY JACK BAILEY

CHELMSFORD (first day of four: Essex won toss): Essex have scored 91 for two wickets against Leicestershire

START the championship on April 13 and you get what you ask for. It was a three-sweater, three slips and a gully sort of day, limited to little more than 30 overs by bursts of rain and hail. It was also a good toss to win. At least it meant that most of the Essex team could remain huddled in the pavilion at any one time.

While Essex did not exactly make the most of the occasion, Paul Prichard enabled the wooden spoonists of last year to make a creditable tilt at the champions. Furthermore, Prichard sailed comfortably past his highest championship score of last season — an almost unbelievable 24 — moving to his undefeated 43 with six fours, including some rasping square cuts and a *short-arm* pull off Chris Lewis to warm the blood.

It was a commendable effort, for he had to battle his way past an early period of playing and missing against Michael Kasprowicz, his team-mate in 1994, as well as combating the movement off the seam gained by Lewis.

For a long time, both he and Darren Robinson survived only precariously. James Whitaker, back from the knee injury that saw him miss every championship game last season, kept the Leicestershire warriors buzzing with determination during the four sessions of play.

Leicestershire achieved their first breakthrough in the eighteenth over. Lewis moved one away to Robinson and Paul Nixon did the rest behind the stumps. The next over saw Kasprowicz rewarded for some good outswing bowling, undeterred by the fact that he was no-balling far too often.

The burly Australian had Ian Flanagan leg-before, half-forward and tentative. This saw the arrival of Stuart Law, the Essex Australian, who settled in with Prichard before all sorts of foul weather and bad light kept everyone in the pavilion for the rest of the day.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

PPP Healthcare county championship

Essex v Leicestershire

CHELMSFORD (first day of four; Essex won toss): Essex have scored 91 for two wickets against Leicestershire

ESSEX: First Innings

P J Prichard not out	43
D D J Robinson c Nixon b Lewis	13
I N Flanagan lbw b Kasprowicz	0
S G Law not out	14
Extras (lb 4, nb 17)	21
Total (2 wkts)	91

*R C Irani, A P Grayson, S D Peters, †R J Rollins, A P Cowan, M C Ilott and P M Such to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-40, 2-45

BOWLING: Kasprowicz 14-4-39-1, Lewis 13.2-3-36-1, Ormond 2-0-8-0, Dakin 1-0-4-0

LEICESTERSHIRE: D L Maddy, I J Sutcliffe, A Habib, B F Smith, *J J Whitaker, †P A Nixon, C C Lewis, J M Dakin, J Ormond, M S Kasprowicz, M T Brimson

Umpires: R Julian and R Palmer.

Middlesex v Kent

LORD'S (first day of four; Kent won toss): Middlesex have scored 16 for one wicket against Kent

MIDDLESEX: First Innings

M A Roseberry b Headley	6
J L Langer not out	10
*M R Ramprakash not out	0
Total (1 wkt)	16

R A Kettleborough, O A Shah, P N Weekes, D C Nash, J P Hewitt, S J Cook, R L Johnson and P C R Tufnell to bat.

FALL OF WICKET: 1-6.

BOWLING: Headley 5.1-1-13-1, Thompson 5-2-3-0.

KENT: R W T Key, E T Smith, T R Ward, A P Wells, A Symonds, M J Walker, †S A Marsh, *M V Fleming, D W Headley, J B Thompson, M M Patel

Umpires: J H Harris and A Clarkson



Surrey v Gloucestershire

THE OVAL (first day of four; Gloucestershire won toss): Surrey have scored 124 for no wicket against Gloucestershire

SURREY: First Innings

*M A Butcher not out	68
I J Ward not out	50
Extras (nb 6)	6
Total (no wkt)	124

J D Ratcliffe, N Shahid, A D Brown, B C Hollioake, †J N Batty, G P Butcher, A J Tudor, I D K Salisbury and M P Bicknell to bat.

BOWLING: Smith 13-3-36-0; Lewis 14-6-37-0; Harvey 8-4-21-0, Alleyne 7-3-16-0; Ball 5-1-14-0

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: K J Barnett, T H C Hancock, D R Hewson, *M W Alleyne, M G N Windows, I J Harvey, J N Snape, †R C Russell, M C J Ball, J Lewis, A M Smith.

Umpires: B Dudleston and J F Steele.

NO PLAY YESTERDAY: Chester-le-Street: Durham v Worcestershire. Old Trafford: Lancashire v Sussex.

UNIVERSITY MATCH: Trent Bridge: Cambridge University 209 for 5 (G R Loveridge 64 not out, R G Halsall 55) v Nottinghamshire.

One-day international

Coca-Cola Cup

India v Pakistan

SHARJAH (Pakistan won toss): India beat Pakistan by six wickets

PAKISTAN

Shahid Afridi run out	5
Saeed Anwar c Jadeja b Agarkar	25
Wajahatullah Wasti c Jadeja b Agarkar	37
Ijaz Ahmed lbw b Kumble	8
Inzamam-ul-Haq run out	4
Salim Malik c Dravid b Prasad	50
†Moin Khan c Joshi b Jadeja	54
*Wasim Akram run out	1
Azhar Mahmood c Singh b Jadeja	6
Saqlain Mushtaq not out	1
Shoaib Akhtar not out	2
Extras (lb 7, nb 5)	12
Total (9 wkts, 50 overs)	205

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-16, 2-34, 3-45, 4-50, 5-110, 6-183, 7-184, 8-200, 9-202

BOWLING: Prasad 10-0-45-1, Agarkar 10-1-41-2, Kumble 10-3-27-1, Singh 10-1-26-0, Joshi 7-0-40-0; Jadeja 3-0-19-2

INDIA

A R Khurasiya b Shoaib	5
S Ramesh run out	82
R Dravid run out	81
*A Jadeja c Ijaz b Shoaib	3
R R Singh not out	6
V G Kambli not out	9
Extras (lb 6, w 12, nb 1)	19
Total (4 wkts, 48 overs)	206

†N R Mongia, A B Agarkar, S B Joshi, A Kumble and B K V Prasad did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-17, 2-184, 3-187, 4-190.

BOWLING: Wasim Akram 10-1-39-0, Shoaib Akhtar 10-0-43-1, Saqlain Mushtaq 10-0-47-0, Azhar Mahmood 10-1-35-0; Shahid Afridi 8-0-32-0, Wajahatullah Wasti 0.1-0-4-0.

Umpires: D B Hair (Australia) and I T Robinson (Zimbabwe)



SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Maud Khouri and Lily Khalil are the anchor pair in the Egyptian Women's Team. They are a very aggressive pair who bid boldly and play well. Maud brought in the small slam shown below at a recently played teams match and earned her team 12 IMPs.

Dealer South N-S game Teams

North: ♠ A K 10 5 ♡ 10 4 ◇ 5 ♣ A 10 8 7 4 3

West: ♠ – ♡ K Q J 10 6 3 ◇ Q 10 8 7 ♣ K J 6

East: ♠ J 9 4 3 ♡ 9 5 2 ◇ J 6 3 ♣ Q 5 2

South: ♠ Q 8 7 6 2 ♡ A 7 ◇ A K 9 4 2 ♣ 9

Contract: Six Spades by South. Lead: king of hearts.

South opened One Spade and West overcalled Two Hearts. North started with a cue-bid of Three Hearts showing a good spade raise but necessarily a heart control. Thereafter an aggressive auction led to the precarious slam.

Even if trumps divide evenly, there are only eleven top tricks: four outside the trumps, five trumps in the South hand and two ruffs in the North hand. One of the minor suits must be established. If the trumps are not so friendly something more will be required.

Recognising the need to start on establishing the clubs, Maud won the lead with the ace of hearts and played ace and another club, ruffing. A spade to the ace revealed the unfriendly break. Another club was ruffed, revealing that they were divided evenly. Now she played the ace and king of diamonds, discarding a heart from dummy, and ruffed a diamond. This was the position:

North: ♠ K 10 ♡ – ◇ – ♣ 10 8 7

West: ♠ – ♡ Q J 10 6 ◇ Q ♣ –

East: ♠ J 9 4 ♡ 9 5 ◇ – ♣ –

South: ♠ Q 8 ♡ 7 ◇ 9 4 ♣ –

Now, with the lead in dummy, she played a club. East ruffed with the nine of spades, declarer overruffed with the queen, ruffed a heart with the ten of spades and played another good club. She has not yet lost a trick. If East ruffs low, she will overruff, and dummy's king of spades is her twelfth trick. On the other hand, if East ruffs with the jack, declarer will make the last two tricks whatever East returns.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Spanish leaders

As the elite tournament in Dos Hermanas, Spain passes its half-way stage, Michael Adams, the British grandmaster, and Vladimir Kramnik, the powerful Russian, share the lead on 3½/5. After her win against Anand in the first round, Judit Polgar has plummeted with three losses, while Viswanathan Anand, widely tipped as a likely challenger to Garry Kasparov's world title, is utterly languishing with two losses and no wins. Today's game is Adams win against the veteran Korchnoi.

White: Michael Adams
Black: Viktor Korchnoi
Dos Hermanas 1999
Ruy Lopez

1	e4	e5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	Bb5	Nf6
4	0-0	Nxe4
5	d4	Nd6
6	Bxc6	dxc6
7	dxe5	Nf5
8	Qxd8+	Kxd8
9	Nc3	h6
10	Rd1+	Ke8
11	h3	Bb4
12	Ne2	Be7
13	b3	h5
14	Bg5	f6
15	exf6	gxf6
16	Bf4	Nd6
17	c4	Kf7
18	Rac1	Bf5
19	Ng3	Bh7
20	Re1	Ne8
21	Rcd1	Bd6
22	Bxd6	cxd6
23	Rd2	Ng7
24	Rxd6	Rhd8
25	Red1	Rxd6
26	Rxd6	Ke7
27	Rd2	a5
28	a3	a4
29	b4	b6
30	Nd4	c5
31	bxc5	bxc5
32	Nb5	Bg8
33	Ne4	Bxc4
34	Nbd6	Be6
35	Nxc5	Rb8
36	Nxe6	Kxe6
37	Ne4	Ke5
38	Nc5	Ra8
39	Rd7	Nf5
40	g3	Nd6
41	f4+	Kd5
42	Nb7	Kc6
43	Rxd6+	Kxb7
44	Rd4	Kc6
45	g4	h4
46	Kf2	Rb8
47	Ke3	Kc5
48	Rxa4	Rb3+
49	Ke4	Rxh3
50	Ra6	Rg3
51	Kf5	h3
52	Rxf6	Rxa3
53	Rh6	Kd4
54	g5	Rg3
55	g6	Ke3
56	Ke5	Black resigns

Diagram of final position

8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 / a b c d e f g h

Keene online

You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by e-mail. The address is keenechess@aol.com. The best contributions from *Times* readers will be published either here or in the Saturday *Times* Weekend column.

Correction

The diagram which appeared yesterday was a repeat of Monday's and did not show the final position of the game King v Pein.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

FAINHEAD
a. A mizzen-mast sail
b. Gladness
c. An idiot

GODDARD
a. A goblet
b. A goblin
c. A hanging judge

FLAPDOODLE
a. A pancake
b. Food for fools
c. An equestrian manoeuvre

GLYCONIC
a. A lyric metre
b. A philosopher's disciple
c. Bitter-sweet

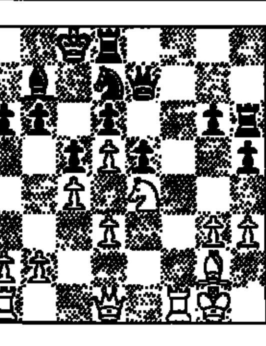
Answers on page 42

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Williams — Chernaiev, Hastings 1999.

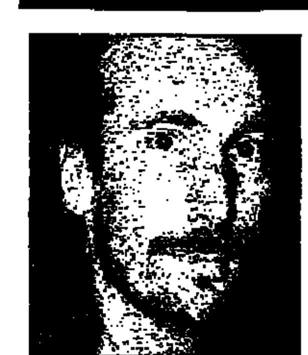
This appears to be a quiet middlegame position but in fact White has a clever tactic which wins immediately. Can you see it?



Solution on page 42

Painful legacy of sporting life

MIDWEEK VIEW



Simon Barnes
Sports Feature Writer of the Year

I have decided on reflection not to run the London Marathon on Sunday. Life is too short, certainly too short to risk shortening it still further with the damaging effects of sport. The London Marathon has become an annual celebration of a deeply old-fashioned view of sport: the idea that sport is *somehow good for you.*

On the contrary, sport is extremely bad for you and those who most stridently push the claims of sport as something essentially good are those that seem most obviously to be suffering from the manifold and various curses that the sporting life makes inevitable.

I think, on this occasion, we will let Jim Fixx — the father of the modern running boom, who dropped dead on a run in his mid-50s — rest in peace this once. There is plenty of *compelling evidence without revisiting the end of poor old* Jim.

Just about every half-decent story we get on the sports pages is a celebration of the utter badness of sport. This week has belonged, in the face of hot competition, to the medical problems of José María Olazábal and his courage in overcoming them. The man was reduced to a shambling and, when no one was looking, crawling wreck. The problem was traced to his lower back, which is where golfers get damaged so often. Ask Seve, if you don't believe me, or my brother-in-law, who was reduced for a period to house-bound immobility after a merry hack around the local course.

The on-again off-again story of the next seven days will revolve around the wounded knee of Zinedine Zidane. Zidane seems to be a man on the point of completing one of the great years of individual achievement in football, a World Cup win with France and now in pole position with Juventus in their European Cup semi-final against Manchester United.

He was forced to limp off half way through his weekend game and now faces what we traditionalists call "A Race *Against Time" to get fit for the* second-leg of the United match a week today. Zidane injured the knee shortly after the World Cup, then he did it again and now he has done it a third time. Clearly, the sensible answer is not to play football.

The psychological wear and tear is as extreme as the physical stresses. Players' minds and bodies are, like grand prix cars, stretched beyond the limits of reliability. So breakdowns occur again and again, every day. Poor old Paul Merson was in tears again last *Saturday after a breathtaking* performance as substitute. He stands as a living example of the problems of keeping normality and the sporting life in balance.

Stan Collymore, his club colleague at Aston Villa, is a *now famous example of a* footballer with mental scars. Ronaldo was under such severe mental and physical stress that he had a fit before he took to the field for Brazil in the World Cup final. The world is full of damaged athletes.

Obviously, this is true for *the professionals, who accept* a life of great physical and mental stress in exchange for great rewards of money, fame, glory and achievement. We ordinary chaps who do it just to keep fit are in a different category, but it doesn't stop sport being extremely bad for us.

> 'Few escape without some kind of long-running niggling, nagging ache'

Training for the London Marathon — Everyman's Everest — is a classic example. Road-runners generally damage the knee joints and will pay for it later in life.

No one has ever confused me with a professional athlete, *but I sit before this word-processor* a damaged person. Right arm never quite right — too much diving about as a goalkeeper and wicketkeeper, though I prefer to blame my one game of polo. And of late, I have been going through a *period of some stress, and all* to do with horses.

In fact, it is a relief to get away from the stresses of the sporting life and get down to a bit of hard graft. Sport is an appallingly stressful business, for mind and body alike, no matter what level you do it at. Few escape without some kind of long-running niggling, nagging ache and those who participate in it seldom do so without worry and care.

And that's why we like it. That's why we do it, because the stresses excite, involve, lift us. Stress is something we *actively seek. That is why so* many people like playing sport and that is why we like watching it, the uniquely public and debilitating stresses of professional sporting life are what make people such as Olazábal and Zidane, Merson *and Ronaldo, enthralling.* Of course sport is bad for you. We wouldn't have anything to do with it if it was good.



Damaged goods: Olazábal, front, Collymore, left, Merson and Zidane have suffered physical and mental wear and tear

TENNIS

Top names bring fizz to Stella event

By ALIX RAMSAY, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

THE clay-court season has hardly begun and already British thoughts are turning to the grass after Stella Artois announced the line-up for their traditional pre-Wimbledon event at Queen's Club. Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski will lead the British challenge, but their paths to the latter stages will be anything but clear with six of the world's top 11 men committed to play.

Yevgeny Kafelnikov, the Australian Open champion and world No 3, leads the initial list of entrants, along with former Stella Artois champions, Todd Martin, conqueror of Rusedski during the Davis Cup in Birmingham two weeks ago, and Mark Philippoussis. Scott Draper, the defending champion, Michael Chang and Thomas Enqvist have also signed up.

Pete Sampras has, as is his wont, asked for a wild card to be reserved for him. He will leave his final decision about whether to play until the last minute, depending on his progress in the French Open.

This is the 21st year of the tournament and, with the millennium in mind, several changes have been made. The young prospects of the ATP (Association of Tennis Professionals) Tour, such as Lleyton Hewitt, Marat Safin and Jan-Michael Gambill, will meet more experienced names, but while they have all either won a Tour event, beaten a top-five player or tasted glory in the Davis Cup, what they will make of grass beneath their feet remains to be seen.

For the first time, BBC television will screen all seven days of the event, while the centre court seating capacity has been increased to nearly 6,400. Should the weather be inclement, a raincheck system is in place offering ticket-holders a full refund should there be less than two hours of play. At the rain-soaked 1998 event, refunds cost the organisers nearly £1.5 million.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 41

FAINHEAD
(b) Gladness and joy. From the Old English and Old Norse *fain* meaning chuffed. "Hit shalle fille you with fainhead."

GODDARD
(a) A drinking-cup or goblet. From the Old French *godart*. A document of 1397 records "le grant godart de la cuisine".

FLAPDOODLE
(b) Food for fools. *Cf. fadoodle* something foolish or ridiculous, nonsense.

GLYCONIC
(a) Epithet of a lyric metre or verse, essentially a logaoedic tetrapody consisting of three trochees and a dactyl. Also (of a poem, stanza, etc.) composed or consisting of such verses.

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE
1 Rf7! Qxf7 2 Nxd6+ winning the queen.

TELEVISION CHOICE

Living for Las Vegas

Girls' Night
ITV, 9pm

As Julie Walters says to Brenda Blethyn at one point, this is like *Thelma and Louise*. But to its credit, it's not too much like that particular exercise in feminine fantasy. Instead, Kay Mellor's film is a rather grittier, more British affair. Best friends Blethyn and Walters share everything, even the six-figure jackpot at bingo which precipitates Walters leaving her husband to move in with the bingo-hall manager. Blethyn, meanwhile, pays off her mortgage but simultaneously finds that she has multiple cancers, for which the treatments seem worse than the fatal prognosis. Walters whisks her off to Las Vegas, where they meet rodeo-rider Kris Kristofferson, an apparent perfect last fling, thinks Walters, for Blethyn.



Brenda Blethyn and Julie Walters head for Las Vegas in *Girls' Night* (ITV, 9pm)

The Naked Chef
BBC2, 8pm

A new series from the makers of *Two Fat Ladies*. Jamie Oliver is a 23-year-old London chef whose presentational skills might be unpolished but whose skill and enthusiasm are undeniable. He may need prompting by an unseen female behind the camera, but his grasp of the essentials of cooking is clear. He eschews fancy names and time-consuming techniques to bring adventurous yet simple cookery within reach of the viewer, both the jaded and, more importantly, the young and inexperienced, who can be intimidated by the bland assurance of the monstrous regiment of telecooks. His is a natural manner which invites you in rather than dazzling you with expertise.

The Unseen Royal Family
ITV, 8pm

Not an exposé of the farther reaches of the Civil List, mysterious cousins locked away in asylums or minor scions of unguessed-at hideousness, but a brisk trot through home movies, relatively rare footage of the Royal Family on parade or at ease, and eyewitness accounts of encounters with them. There's quite a bit about Diana, Princess of Wales, but almost as much about the Queen, both as Princess Elizabeth and, touchingly, on her several visits to the stricken Welsh village of Aberfan. The Prince of Wales also gets a reassessment, as a decent sort, going out of his way to be fair and non-discriminatory. Some may feel that there is a little too much from Ivor Spence, a toastmaster and butler-trainer, but he's entertaining enough and he can genuinely claim to have had extensive acquaintance with the family of Windso rs.

Leviathan
BBC2, 7.30pm

Now here's a funny thing, or at least it should be, preview tapes not being available at the time of going to press. Ahead of the 1999 London Marathon, a film report on the classical origins of the race, from the Battle of Marathon, 2,500 years ago, to the modern Olympic Games. The presenter is Chris Eubank, the famously elegant former boxing champion, idiosyncratic of pronunciation and now revealed as a lover of both the warrior ethic and 19th-century heroic poetry. Also tonight: Steve Jones reports on the first experiments, in Des Moines, Iowa, in the 1920s, on genetically modified food crops. **Tony Patrick**

RADIO CHOICE

Melt/The End of the World
Radio 4, 11.30am/9pm

Today is not a good day on Radio 4 if you want to contemplate tomorrow with a smile on your face. Worse, there may not even be a tomorrow. This much can be inferred from the absence of a question-mark in the title *The End of the World*. So, it's a statement of fact, not conjecture. The only unresolved element in John Gribbin's investigation is not *if* universal apocalypse comes but *how* it will come. Several doomsday scenarios are offered, including being pulverised by a gigantic asteroid and being barbecued by the greenhouse effect. Pete Lawson's noisy and frenzied comedy *Melt* opts for annihilation by nightmare heatwave in which Big Ben dissolves and becomes Little Ben . . .

Choice Chatwin
Radio 4, 9.45am

In the book world, the tenth anniversary of Bruce Chatwin's death will long be remembered for the huge critical acclaim that has greeted the publication of Nicholas Shakespeare's biography of the travel writer and novelist. The radio world, too, must be rather pleased with itself. When Radio 4 planned its week of celebrations to mark the Chatwin anniversary, it couldn't possibly have known that it would be able to bask in Shakespeare's reflected glory. Six of Chatwin's tales are being broadcast this week and Shakespeare was selected as one of the quartet of readers. This morning, in an extract from *The Songlines*, he tells the story of a plucky aboriginal missionary, Father Flynn **Peter Davalle**

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Jo Whiley **3.00pm** Chris Moyles **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Dave Pearce **8.00** Steve Lamacq: The Evening Session **10.00** Movie Update with Mark Kermode **10.10** John Peel **12.00** Gilles Peterson **2.00am** Clive Warren **4.00** Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Richard Allinson **12.00** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Ed Stewart **5.05** Johnnie Walker **7.00** Nick Barraclough **8.00** Mike Harding **9.00** Giants of Soul. Daryl Hall profiles Otis Redding (3/6) **10.00** Tom Paxton: Still Ramblin' (2/8) **10.30** Lynn Parsons **12.00** Katrina Leskanich **3.00am** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **12.00** The Midday News with Allan Robb **1.00pm** Ian Payne **4.00** Drive **7.00** News Extra with Annie Webster **7.30** John Inverdale's Football Night. Coverage of the night's big football matches. Plus, the National Lottery Draw **10.00** Littlejohn. No-nonsense football talk on tonight's European and domestic action **11.00** Late Night Live **1.00am** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Boys Breakfast **9.00** Scott Chisholm & Sally James **12.00** Let's Talk Pets **1.00pm** Anna Raeburn **4.00** The Sports Zone **7.00** Off Side with Sebastian Coe **8.00** The Big Issues **10.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

VIRGIN

6.30am The Breakfast Show **9.30** Russ Williams **1.00pm** Nick Abbot **4.00** Harriet Scott **6.45** Pete and Geoff **10.00** Gary Davies **1.00am** Richard Allen **4.30** Phil Kennedy

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today **6.00** The World Today **7.00** World News **7.15** Outlook **7.55** My Century **8.00** World News **8.05** World Business Report **8.15** Insight **8.30** Sports International **9.00** World News **9.05** Westway **9.20** Off the Shelf: News Of A Kidnapping **9.35** One Planet **10.00** World News **10.05** Sounds Right **10.20** Blues World **10.50** Sports Round-Up **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Britain Today **11.45** World Business Report **12.00** Newsdesk **12.30pm** Sports International **1.00** World News **1.05** Outlook **1.45** Sports Round-Up **2.00** Newshour **3.00** World News **3.05** One Planet **3.30** Meridian Live **4.00** World News **4.05** Sport s Round-Up **4.15** From Our Own Correspondent **4.30** Jazzmatazz **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Insight **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** Performance **6.45** Sports Round-Up **7.00** World News **7.15** Britain Today **7.30** Sports International **8.00** World News **8.05** One Planet **8.30** From Our Own Correspondent **8.45** Off the Shelf: News Of A Kidnapping **9.00** Newshour **10.00** World News **10.05** World Business Report **10.20** Britain Today **10.30** On Screen **11.00** World News **11.15** Sports Round-Up **11.30** Andy Kershaw's World of Music **12.00** World News **12.05am** Outlook **12.45** Insight **1.00** The World Today **1.30** One Planet **1.55** My Century **2.00** The World Today **2.30** Meridian Live **3.00** The World Today **3.30** World Business Report **3.45** Insight **4.00** The World Today **4.20** Sports Round-Up **4.30** The World Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast **8.00** Henry Kelly Includes the Hall of Fame Hour **12.00** Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones spins listeners' favourites **2.00pm** Concerto. Grechaninov (Cello Concerto) **3.00** Jamie Crick. Including Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romance **6.30** Newsnight Headlines, arts news and guests **7.00** Smooth Classics at *Seven. John Brunning introduces easy-listening sounds* **9.00** Evening Concert Strauss (Overture, Die Fledermaus), Rachmaninov (Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini), Shostakovich (Romance from The Gadfly), Prokofiev (March of the Knights); Tchaikovsky (Piano Concerto No 1 in B *minor*) **11.00** Mann at Night **2.00am** Concerto (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air with Petroc Trelawny, including a review *of the new production of Candide at the Royal* National Theatre
9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday. Grieg (Peer Gynt Suite No 1); Mozart (Adagio and Fugue in C minor, K546); Bartok (Piano Concerto No 2)
10.30 Artist of the Week: Moura Lympany
11.00 Sound Stories: Architects Peggy Reynolds remembers Palladio
12.00 Composer of the Week: J.C. Bach
1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Artur Pizarro, piano. Granados (Los requiebros; Coloquio en la reja; El fandango del Candil; Quejas o la maya y el ruisenor; El amor y la muerte; Epilogo, Goyescas) (r)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC National Orchestra of Wales. Mozart (Symphony No 46 in C, K425, Linz); Dvorak (Cello Concerto in B minor), Beethoven (Symphony No 6 in F, Pastoral)
4.00 Choral Evensong From Truro Cathedral. Organist and master of the choristers Andrew Nethsingha. Assistant organist Simon Morley
5.00 *In Tune* *Humphrey Carpenter's guests include the* soprano Emma Kirkby
7.30 Performance on 3: Endless Parade (Sounding the Century) Live from the Hippodrome, Golders Green, London. Malcolm Binns, piano, Robert Cohen, cello, BBC Concert Orchestra under Barry Wordsworth. Arnold (Four Scottish Dances), Rawsthorne (Piano Concerto No 2) **8.15** Anglophiles. Foreign-born artists and thinkers choose their favourite examples of British achievements in the postwar arts **8.35** Concert, part two. Bliss (Cello Concerto); Richard Rodney Bennett (Concerto for orchestra)
9.40 Postscript: Seamus Heaney at 60 (3/5)
10.00 The Piano Piers Lane investigates the world of the piano past and present
11.00 Night Waves Laura Cummin talks to the controversial art historian James Beck, whose new study of Michelangelo calls for a radical rethinking of the life and work of the Renaissance master
11.30 Jazz Notes Alyn Shipton presents the singer Salena Jones with the Great British Jazz Band recorded as part of the Chichester Festival's Jazz Parade concert
12.00 Through the Night Includes **12.05** Mozart (Overture: Cosi fan tutte) **12.10** Bach, reconstr Koopman (Cantata No 190) **12.25** Otto Dutch (Overture: The Croatian Girl) **12.40** Szymanowski (String Quartet No 1, Op 37) **1.00** Brahms (Piano Concerto No 1 in D minor) **1.45** Mozart (String *Quartet in B flat*, K458, Hunt)) **2.15** Cherubini (Requiem No 1 in C minor) **3.00** Tchaikovsky (Suite No 1 in D) **3.40** Brahms (Hungarian Dances for piano duet) **3.55** Mozart (Sinfonia concertante in E flat, K364) **4.35** Mozart (Ballet music: Les petits riens, K299b) **5.10** Corelli (Trio Sonata no 6) **5.25** Vanhal (Symphony in A minor) **5.40** Ravel (Tzigane) **5.50** Schreker (Valse lente)

RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast
5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day
5.47 Farming Today Anna Hill presents
6.00 Today with James Naughtie and John Humphrys
8.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament Update on the latest political developments
9.00 Midweek with the *Times* columnist Libby Purves
9.45 (FM) Serial: Choice Chatwin Extracts from Bruce Chatwin's *The Songlines* See Choice
9.45 (LW) Daily Service
10.00 **Woman's Hour** with Jenni Murray and guests Includes *Diary of a Provincial Lady*
11.00 The Yellow Cliffs of Dover Chris Bowlby explores the town's identity as one of the country's busiest ports
11.30 Melt Pete Lawson's comedy about Londoners in the grip of a heatwave. With Dave Brooks and Katy Carmichael. See Choice
12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
12.00 (FM) News 12.04pm You and Yours with Mark *Whittaker and Trixie Rawlinson*
1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke
1.30 Points of Law New series. Popular legal quiz, chaired by Richard Evans
2.00 The Archers Yesterday's edition (r)
2.15 Afternoon Play: Airswimming Charlotte Jones's uplifting comedy of friendship, fantasy and freedom, set in the 1920s and starring Sophie Thompson, Charlotte Jones and Marcia Warren (r)
3.00 Gardeners' Question Time (r)
3.30 A Name to Remember Barbara Myers examines the life and work of anatomist Thomas Hodgkin, the man Hodgkin's disease is named after (3/5)
3.45 This Sceptred Isle Anna Massey narrates part 73 of the history of Britain (r)
4.00 Thinking Allowed Professor Eilen Barker discusses her research into the many facets of faith around the world
4.30 Case Notes Graham Easton takes a look at the heart and circulatory system (r)
5.00 PM with Clare English and Chris Lowe
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 King Street Junior Jim Eldridge's comedy drama set in a junior school. Rumours spread like wildfire, creating a nightmare scenario for Mr Sims. Karl Howman stars (3/6) (r)
7.00 The Archers The latest events from Ambridge
7.15 Front Row Mark Lawson reviews the National Theatre's new production of *Candide*
7.45 Diary of a Provincial Lady Part eight of E.M. Delafield's household journal, dramatised by Jane Rogers. Broadcast earlier as part of *Woman's Hour* (r)
8.00 The 1999 Reith Lectures Anthony Giddens, Director of the LSE, gives the second of five lectures, focusing on the difficulties of managing life. Introduced by Matt Frei (2/5)
9.00 The End of the World John Gribbin invites experts to speculate on the probable causes of Armageddon See Choice
9.30 Midweek Broadcast earlier (r)
10.00 The World Tonight Justin Webb presents
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Archangel Alan Howard reads part eight of Robert Harris' thriller (r)
11.00 Late Night on 4: Old Harry's Game Andy Hamilton's award-winning comedy, set in Hell, starring James Grout and Jimmy Mulville. Satan enters Scumspawn's brain (4/6)
11.30 (FM) I'm Glad You Asked Me That Offbeat guide to modern living, with Michael Bywater, Sean Meo and Philip Pope (3/6) (r)
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament Political news
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: Earthly Joys Kevin Whately reads part eight of Philippa Gregory's novel (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. **RADIO 1.** FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089.
Television and radio listings compiled by Perry Cleveland-Peck, Ian Hughes, Gillian Maxey, Jane Gregory and Barry O'Keefe

Around the world with Directory Enquiries

REVIEW



Peter Barnard

The first couple of paragraphs of this review have had to be smuggled past the news editor under the protection of large men with shaved heads because the news editor is not a person who likes to find himself trawling the back end of the paper of a morning only to encounter a world exclusive he has missed. Too bad, says I. Eat your heart out.

The startling revelation that Richard Branson does not carry the Prime Minister's telephone number about with him came in **The Mission: The Great Balloon Race** (BBC1) last night. It is hard to say whether this omission will do more harm to Branson or Tony Blair but what it does help to show is that Branson is a past master of public relations. The programme was not even about him, yet here he is hogging the headlines.

The programme was actually about the successful round-the-world-trip in March by *Breitling Orbiter 3*, one of the few balloons of recent years that has gone up without having Branson in it. In a way Branson played his part in the success, for had his last attempt at the record not ended in failure the Breitling trip would not have happened at all.

It was during the section about Branson that we learnt the shortcomings of his little black book. When Branson was trying to get permisssion to cross Chinese airspace he contacted his flight controller and told him to ring up Downing Street. As you do. There followed a bizarre exchange, during which Branson's staff had to be told that the best way to get a number for No 10 would be to ring Directory Enquiries.

Still, eventually Blair was contacted and he faxed a letter to the Chinese and they in turn relented. Or, as my own man in Beijing put it: "Mr Brares barroon fliend fry over China, no plobrem." The plobrem was, of course, to come near Honolulu, where Branson had to ditch last Christmas Day, leaving the way open for *Breitling Orbiter 2* and its rival, the Cable and Wireless balloon. As with racing yachts and footballers, balloons now carry the romantic names of their sponsors. A modern Owl and his Pussycat would go to sea in a beautiful Heinz Peas multihull.

Brian Jones and Bertrand Piccard, the crew of *Orbiter 3*, may not have possessed quite as much in the way of sparkling teeth as Branson but they come across as a couple of modest, dedicated heroes who, filmed at the moment they completed the record, embraced with the self-conscious awkwardness of men who would just as soon have been doing this without anyone knowing about it, but for the need for somebody with deep pockets.

There is something inherently romantic about ballooning and the programme conveyed it well. Notwithstanding the fax machines, camcorders, e-mail and satellite telephones that are now *de rigueur* on such a trip, a balloon is a balloon and as such it has an imperious quality quite absent from any other form of transport. You feel that a balloon has a mind of its own, which in a way it does: it is called the wind.

I had not realised until last night's film that at one point Jones and Piccard nearly died because something went wrong with the air-purification plant on board. Neither man realised what had happened for 24 hours though both felt breathless. They donned oxygen masks while the fault was sorted out.

The moment when they landed in the desert at the end of the trip was magical. They set up a camera to film themselves. There was nobody else present. Just them, the deflating balloon and the desert. They strolled about, laughing. Watching them, you felt almost as good as they must have done.

Birds and other animals travel around the world without sponsors, unless you count the BBC Natural History Unit. But these creatures do have all sorts of fancy equipment given to them by nature. **Supernatural: The Unseen Powers of Animals** (BBC1) is a series that has so far been as fascinating for its filming techniques as any facts it has uncovered, but last night's *Hidden Forces* had fascination in both respects.

The subject was how creatures use senses to "read" the Earth's magnetic field and find their way around. There are some birds, for example, that have magnetic sensors in their retinas which "see" a coloured spot showing the position of magnetic north relative to its flight path. I have a daughter who could use one of those every time she gets in a car.

Green turtles, which return to the very beach on which they were born 30 years earlier, use magnetised particles known as magnetite that measure the strength of the magnetic field and its angle to the Earth, thus giving the creature something resembling an Ordnance Survey map, only better: it doesn't wrap itself round your head in a wind.

I think this series has fallen too deeply in love with its own ability to get a camera up the nose of anything that swims, crawls, scuttles or flies, with the result that there were moments last night when I was diving for cover like Tippi Hedren in *The Birds*. That and the irritating music are the only downsides of a series that is otherwise exemplary.

The best character in last night's film was the orange ladybird, which ought to be given a job at the Met Office. The orange ladybird uses methods it has so far kept secret to predict whether the British winter will be severe or mild, thus enabling it to choose a hibernation spot that is either underground or merely sheltered. The ladybird has been studied for ten years and in every year it got the forecast right. Over to you, Michael Fish.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (14998)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (43337)
9.00 Kilroy (T) (9992462)
9.45 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (385733)
10.15 The Vanessa Show (T) (4699266)
11.00 News; Weather (T) (5853066)
11.05 City Hospital (T) (9063795)
11.55 News; Weather (T) (8349658)
12.00 Going for a Song (8100895)
12.25pm Wipeout (1683630)
12.50 The Weather Show (T) (76821627)
1.00 One O'Clock News (T) (46424)
1.30 Regional News; Weather (58991172)
1.40 Neighbours (T) (16159269)
2.05 Ironside (r) (1047627)
2.55 Through the Keyhole (r) (T) (2006882)
3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (8443066) **3.45** Starhill Ponies (4086578) **3.50** Hububb (7974578) **4.10** Adventures of Shirley Holmes (7209288) **4.35** Demon Headmaster (7431511) **5.00** Newsround (5470608) **5.10** Blue Peter (2231207)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (259240)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (801)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (153)
7.00 Holiday on a Shoestring Craig Doyle visits Dublin and Michael McNally samples the delights of Magaluf in Majorca (6/6) (T) (8578)
7.30 Tomorrow's World Peter Snow reports from New Zealand on a pioneering method of gold excavation (T) (337)
8.00 Changing Rooms Sisters redecorate each other's rooms (r) (T) (4998)
8.30 Battersea Dogs' Home New series. Lionel Blair shows off his Battersea pets Florence and Jenny (T) (524172)
8.50 The National Lottery: Greatest Hits with Angela Griffin (T) (419801)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (570608)
9.34 National Lottery Update (253733)
9.35 Under Siege II: Dark Territory (1995) FILM Premiere. Steven Seagal returns as the US Navy SEAL-turned-chef, who this time embarks on a *journey* with his niece and ends up trying to save his fellow passengers from a criminal. Directed by Geoff Murphy (T) (9229527)
11.05 Film 99 with Jonathan Ross Includes *An Ideal Husband* and *Return to Paradise* (T) (849086)



Dustin Hoffman stars as a student caught up in espionage (11.40pm)

11.40 Marathon Man (1976) FILM Dustin Hoffman stars in this thriller about a student whose brother is murdered by a Nazi war criminal. With Laurence Olivier and Roy Scheider. Directed by John Schlesinger (T) (814337)
1.35am Weather (2175554)
1.40 BBC News 24 (86826486)

WALES

9.30-9.34 Party Election Broadcast (253733)
1.35am-1.40 News; Weather (T) (2175554)

BBC2

7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: Polka Dot Shorts (5308424) **7.10** The Silver Brumby (9864578) **7.35** Top Cat (8296714) **7.55** The Bots Master (8290530) **8.20** Help! It's the Hair Bear Bunch (8905801) **8.40** Trading Places (9189207) **9.08** Rewind (3123153) **9.10** Goober and the Ghost Chasers (7980608) **9.35** Student Bodies (8638240) **10.00** Teletubbies (30375) **10.30** FILM: Babes in Toyland (20158714) **12.10pm** The Car's the Star (7728424) **12.30** Working Lunch (54882) **1.00** Brum (38133849)
1.10 The Leisure Hour (r) (1735153)
2.10 Sporting Greats (89807801)
2.40 News; Weather (T) (8218153)
2.45 Westminster (T) (5802694)
3.55 News; Weather (T) (7013269)
4.00 The Village (r) (7023646)
4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (T) (7026733)
4.55 Esther (r) (T) (9218443)
5.30 Whose House? (530)
6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation Data is understandably relieved to learn his head has been relocated (r) (T) (188530)
6.45 Buffy the Vampire Slayer Buffy and Angel discover something is digging up and dismembering corpses (T) (506207)

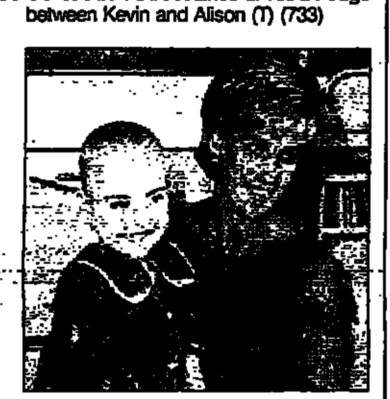


Chris Eubank examines the history of marathon races (7.30pm)

7.30 CHOICE **Leviathan** New series. Chris Eubank visits Athens to research the history of the marathon race (T) (207)
8.00 CHOICE **The Naked Chef** New series. Jamie Oliver demonstrates simple recipes (T) (5240)
8.30 Home Front New series. Jocasta Innes draws on the influence of the American architect Frank Lloyd Wright (T) (4375)
9.00 Three Fights, Two Weddings and a Funeral Spoof home video depicting the eventful marriage of brassy good-time girl Pauline Calf (r) (T) (501578)
9.35 Louis Theroux's Weird Weekends The intrepid reporter meets members of a growing number of American militia groups (4/4) (r) (T) (842337)
10.33 Video Nation Shorts (T) (540714)
10.35 Newsnight (T) (983375)
11.20 The Battle for Congress The 1998 California race for Congress (T) (128646)
11.55 Weather (284066)
12.00 Despatch Box (31414)
12.30am BBC Learning Zone: Open University: The Chemistry of Survival **1.00** The Chemistry of Power **1.30** The Chemistry of Life and Death **2.00** Exam Revision: GCSE Bitesize Revision — History **4.00** Languages. Deutsch Plus **5.00** Business and Training: So You Want to Work in Social Care? **5.30** 20 Steps to Better Management **5.45** Open University: Why Do Peacocks Have Elaborate Trains? **6.10** Sexual Selection and Speciation **6.35** Horses for Courses: An Evolutionary Radiation

HTV

5.30am ITV Morning News (50288)
6.00 GMTV (2835172)
9.25 Trisha (T) (3588443)
10.30 This Morning (T) (49195511)
12.15pm HTV News (T) (7058795)
12.30 ITV Lunchtime News (T) (2689849)
12.55 Shortland Street Rachael and Martin get closer (1748627)
1.30 Lie Detector (T) (16148153)
1.55 The Jerry Springer Show Outrageous talk show (T) (5006511)
2.40 Wheel of Fortune (T) (2002066)
3.10 ITV News Headlines (T) (5703462)
3.15 HTV News (T) (5702733)
3.20 CITV: Maisy (5709646) **3.25** The Story Store (6727882) **3.40** Jumanji (2426801) **4.05** Hey Arnold! (7007608) **4.35** Wildtrack (7466207)
5.00 Lie Detector (r) (T) (3882)
5.30 WEST: Live and Local Reports from Devizes in Wiltshire (356)
5.30 WALES: Up Beat Welsh acts that have made it big in London (6/6) (T) (356)
5.58 HTV Weather (860646)
6.00 HTV News (T) (269)
6.25 WALES: Party Election Broadcast By the Conservative and Unionist Party (487462)
6.29 HTV Crimestoppers (487462)
6.29 WALES: Crimestoppers (487462)
6.30 ITV Evening News; Weather (T) (849)
7.00 Emmerdale Mandy confronts Paddy's mum (T) (3646)
7.30 Coronation Street Linda drives a wedge between Kevin and Alison (T) (733)



A chance to see rare footage of Diana, Princess of Wales (8pm)

8.00 CHOICE **The Unseen Royal Family** One-off documentary in which ordinary people recount their experiences of meeting members of the Royal Family (T) (4085)
9.00 CHOICE **Girls' Night** A dying woman hits the bingo jackpot and uses the cash to take her sister-in-law to gamblers' paradise Las Vegas (T) (7172)
11.00 ITV Nightly News; Weather (T) (902530)
11.20 HTV News and Weather (T) (811849)
11.30 The Big Match Manchester United v Arsenal (81795)
12.30am A Child Lost Forever (1992) FILM A woman tries to contact the son she gave up for adoption 19 years earlier, only to make a shocking discovery. Tearjerker, starring Beverly D'Angelo. Directed by Claudia Weill (T) (115554)
2.15 Gaolbreak (1962) FILM Crooks spring an old friend from prison so he can take part in a safe-blowing raid. Crime drama, with Peter Reynolds and Carol White. Directed by Francis Searle (8764738)
3.25 Trisha Shown earlier (r) (T) (2172776)
4.25 Bugs Bunny (r) (66597365)
4.50 ITV Nightscreen Behind the scenes of ITV programmes (74319196)
5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (78825)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.20-12.30pm Central News; Weather (9276424)
12.55 Lie Detector (2657240)
1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (4838356)
2.10-2.40 Echo Point (89801627)
3.15-3.20 Central News; Weather (5702733)
5.30 Shortland Street (356)
6.00-6.30 Central News at Six; Weather (269)
11.20-11.30 Central News; Weather (811849)
4.25am Central Jobfinder '99 (7094467)
5.20-5.30 Asian Eye (9503738)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.15pm Westcountry News (7058795)
12.27-12.30 Illuminations (9284443)
12.55-1.25 Westcountry Lunchtime Live; Weather (2657240)
1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (4838356)
2.10-2.40 Lie Detector (89801627)
3.15-3.20 Westcountry News; Weather (5702733)
4.59-5.00 Birthday People (3539408)
5.30 Peter Gorton For Starters (356)
6.00-6.30 Westcountry Live (269)
11.20-11.30 Westcountry News; Weather (811849)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News;** Weather (7058795) **5.30 Big Day Out** (4/5) (r) (356) **6.00-6.30 Meridian Tonight** (T) (269) **7.29-7.30 Meridian Weather** (514375) **11.20-11.30 Meridian News;** Weather (T) (811849) **5.00am-5.30 Freescreen** (T) (78825)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except: **12.14pm Anglia Air Watch** (9296288) **12.15-12.30 Anglia News and Weather** (7058795) **5.29 Anglia Air Watch** (1973068) **5.30-6.00 Whipsnade** (12/13) (T) (356) **6.00-6.30 Anglia News** (T) (269) **11.19 Anglia Air Watch** (428288) **11.20-11.30 Anglia News and Weather** (T) (811849)

S4C

Starts: **5.55am Sesame Street** (r) (28961443) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (69838207) **9.00 The Bigger Breakfast** (92141998) **9.05 Saved by the Bell** (T) (92998714) **9.30 Sam and Max** (93299849) **10.00 CatDog** (54686066) **10.20 Boy Meets World** (T) (54695714) **10.45 Moesha** (12074379) **11.15 The Bigger Breakfast** (25206066) **11.30 Powerhouse** (T) (90533801) **12.00 Home Improvement** (T) (63379269) **12.30pm Sesame Street** (T) (93260337) **1.00 Planed Plant** (T) (69808066) **1.30 The Ocean World of John Stoneman** (r) (T) (99174337) **1.55 Racing from Newmarket and Cheltenham** (15296795) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (T) (99200627) **4.30 Ricki Lake** (T) (99299511) **5.00 Planed Plant** (T) (41671424) **5.30 Countdown** (T) (99213191) **6.00 Newyd dion 6** (T) (49747511) **6.10 Heno** (T) (39535356) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (41691288) **7.30 Electoral Broadcast** (56712191) **7.35 Newyddion** (T) (31161207) **8.05 Ffermio** (T) (84517462) **8.35 Hawlio** (T) (52723627) **9.05 ER** (T) (54801004) **10.00 Brookside** (T) (51045356) **10.35 Sex and the City** (T) (81037559) **11.05 Eurotrash** (85675462) **11.35 The 11 O'Clock Show** (98623646) **12.10am Silverstone GT Racing** (r) (14002979) **12.45 boardstupid** (r) (25269047) **1.50 Football Italia: Mezzanotte** (48951776) **4.00 Trans World Sport** (34372125) **4.55 Diwedd**

CHANNEL 4

5.45am Animal Alphabet (2172608)
5.50 The Magic Roundabout (2736207)
6.00 Sesame Street (r) (71068)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (69375)
9.00 The Bigger Breakfast (T) (3159578)
9.05 Saved by the Bell (7983795)
9.30 Sam and Max (78462)
10.00 CatDog (3825172)
10.20 Boy Meets World (3834820)
10.45 Moesha (T) (369795)
11.15 The Bigger Breakfast (6381820)
11.30 Powerhouse (T) (8172)
12.00 Sesame Street (r) (T) (21066)
12.30pm Bewitched (r) (T) (89578)
1.00 Caroline in the City (62462)
1.30 The Three Stooges (16146795)
1.55 Racing from Newmarket and Cheltenham From Newmarket: **2.05** Grantchester Stakes, **2.35** Weatherby's Earl of Sefton Stakes, **3.10** Victor Chandler European Free Handicap, and the **3.45** Scottish Equitable Jockeys' Association Handicap Stakes. From Cheltenham: the **2.20** Lynx Express Novices' Handicap Chase and the **2.55** Golden Miller Handicap Stakes (69499820)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (462)
4.30 Countdown (T) (7465578)
4.55 Ricki Lake (T) (9203511)
5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (998)
6.00 Dawson's Creek Pacey and Andie get romantic at a homecoming dance — which is more than can be said for Dawson and Joey (T) (104578)
6.50 T4orce Highlights of the week's T4 programmes (970882)
7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (474269)
7.55 The A-Z of Scotland Items associated with Scotland (T) (381269)
8.00 Brookside The Musgrove family dig their heels in (T) (7608)



Liza Tarbuck presents a new series of the fashion programme (8.30pm

8.30 She's Gotta Have It Liza Tarbuck hosts a new series of the fashion magazine (1/10) (T) (9443)
9.00 ER Mark discovers evidence of a medical school indiscretion which could ruin Amanda's career (T) (5191)
10.00 Sex and the City Carrie considers adopting a religion (T) (22795)
10.30 Eurotrash Continental capers with Antoine de Caunes (r) (T) (31443)
11.00 The 11 O'Clock Show Topical comedy with Iain Lee (9424)
11.30 So Graham Norton Irreverent comedy (r) (T) (374998)
12.10am Silverstone GT Racing Round one of the British GT (r) (7302844)
12.45 boardstupid (r) (5672467)
1.50 Football Italia: Mezzanotte Serie A action (22236660)
4.00 Trans World Sport Global action (2779689)
4.55 Electric Avenue Brixton's colourful characters (2/4) (r) (T) (42295370)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport With Becky Anderson (5796733)
7.00 WideWorld Part nine. The invention of the motor car (r) (T) (2653849)
7.30 Milkshake! (2441207)
7.35 Muppet Babies (4865820)
8.00 Havakazoo (r) (8645153)
8.30 Dappledown Farm (r); 5 News Update (8644424)
9.00 Hot Property (r) (T) (4516849)
9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (r) (3083917)
9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (6865801)
10.20 Sunset Beach Ben receives a mysterious call (T) (4058375)
11.10 Leeza (3713240)
12.00 5 News at Noon (T) (8648240)
12.30pm Family Affairs Ben learns Donna likes him (r) (T) (1530199)
1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Grant asks Eric for his old job back (T) (2645820)
1.30 The Roseanne Show Award-winning entertainment show, presented by comedian; 5 News Update (6485040)
2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (2956337)
2.30 Good Afternoon Daily entertainment; 5 News Update (8549207)
3.30 The Golden Gate Murders (TVM 1979) FILM David Janssen and Susannah York star in this murder mystery about a detective and a nun investigating the suspicious death of a priest. Directed by Walter Grauman (2716795)
5.20 5 News (T) (59073849)
5.25 Russell Grant's Postcards Switzerland (59065820)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (6943004)
6.00 5 News; Weather Round-up of the day's stories, including *First on Five* (T) (6940917)
6.30 Family Affairs The boys inspect their haul (T); 5 News Update (6931269)
7.00 Knight Rider Michael is called in to investigate the theft of a high-tech missile-firing helicopter. Starring David Hasselhoff (r); 5 News Update (9125172)
8.00 My Titanic Account of the 1996 Eurotunnel fire from the perspective of the lorry driver Jeff Waghorn, who reveals the fear that he felt at being trapped in a smoke-filled compartment 300ft under the English Channel and some 12 miles from safety (T); 5 News Update (9134820)
9.00 Born Bad (TVM 1997) FILM Three juvenile delinquents attempt to rob a bank — but disaster strikes as the police move in, leaving them facing a battle to save the lives of everyone involved in their scheme. Action thriller, with Corey Feldman, James Remar and Justin Walker. Directed by Jeff Yonis (T); 5 News Update (23342172)
10.40 Not the Jack Docherty Show Lively chat show (4444511)
11.20 UK Raw A professional dominatrix (8/10) (6116375)
11.50 Major League Baseball Live Big-hitting action from the States, presented by Jonathan Gould (35704284)
4.30am Australian Rules Football Action from Down Under (7022478)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (6730283)

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SATELLITE, CABLE AND DIGITAL

● **For further listings see Saturday's *Vision***

SKY ONE

7.00am Count Duckula (98443) **7.30** Grimmy (15578) **8.00** Earthworm Jim (77269) **8.30** Godzilla (69240) **9.00** Pokemon (63820) **9.30** Simpsons (94424) **10.00** Shadow Raiders (58795) **10.30** Xena (63820) **11.30** Legend of the Hidden City (11627) **12.00** Tarzan (17375) **1.00pm** Mad About You (85714) **1.30** Jeopardy (97511) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (59424) **3.00** Jenny Jones (15443) **4.00** Pokemon (6004) **4.30** Shadow Raiders (2288) **5.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (9849) **6.00** America's Dumbest Criminals (3153) **6.30** Friends (7733) **7.00** The Simpsons (8838) **7.30** The Simpsons (3917) **8.00** Mortal Kombat (52462) **9.00** X Files (49998) **10.00** Miami Uncovered (42085) **11.00** Friends (35207) **11.30** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (58066) **12.30am** Law and Order (42573) **1.30** Long Play (4596641)

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels. To view any film telephone 0990 800888
SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 51) **Mortal Kombat 2: Annihilation (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60) **Sphere (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 53) **Mousehunt (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58) **Hard Rain (1998)**

SKY PREMIER

6.00am Courage Mountain (1990) (11511) **8.00 Land Before Time V: Mysterious Island (1997)** (71646) **10.00 Home Alone (1991)** (79658) **12.00 Courage Mountain (1990)** (61269) **2.00pm Speed II: Cruise Control (1997)** (55268917) **4.05 Land Before Time V: The Mysterious Island (1997)** (58975004) **5.45 Home Alone (1991)** (65305269) **7.30** Barry Norman's Film Night (6827) **8.00 Speed II: Cruise Control (1997)** (56288) **10.00 Con Air (1997)** (97004) **12.00 The Leading Man (1996)** (781486) **1.40am Home for the Holidays (1995)** (255047) **3.25 Vampires in Venice (1988)** (68577863)

SKY MOVIEMAX

5.20am Freeze Frame (1992) (72119627) **7.00 Bionic Everafter (1994)** (87795) **9.00 Susie Q (TVM 1996)** (53240) **11.00 Love is Strange (1998)** (53462) **1.00 Bionic Everafter (1994)** (64356) **3.00 Susie Q (TVM 1996)** (52882) **5.00 Amorel (1993)** (86917) **7.00 Love is Strange (1998)** (59207) **8.30** E! News Week (3801) **9.00 National Lampoon's Dad's Week Off (1996)** (57917) **11.00 Murder at 1600 (1997)** (134578) **12.50am False Pretense (1997)** (658573) **2.25 Don't Be a Menace to South Central While Drinking Your Juice in the Hood (1995)** (1263009) **3.55 Scanners II: New Order (1990)** (771757)

SKY CINEMA

4.00pm Swiss Miss (1938) (7258801) **6.00 Tarzan and the Amazons (1945)** (2009022) **8.00 92 in the Shade (1975)** (3554117) **10.00 American Gigolo (1980)** (7246337) **12.00 Champion (1949)** (1133912) **1.40am Irene (1940)** (88443863) **3.10 The House of Fear (1945)** (30281467) **4.20 My Little Chickadee (1939)** (6001931)

FILMFOUR

6.00pm L'Accompagnatrice (1992) (8398066) **8.00 Gloria (1980)** (8393511) **10.00 Leon (1994)** (7273240) **11.55 The Bonfire of the Vanities (1990)** (1382733) **1.55am** Sapphire Room (4950318) **2.15 Cabaret (1972)** (53529573) **4.20 Music of Chance (1993)** (3182950) **6.00** Close

TNT

9.00pm Captain Blood (1935) (48653117) **11.15 Cincinnati Kid (1965)** (97032337) **1.15am The Liquidator (1966)** (71075660) **3.00 Captain Blood (1935)** (84522405) **5.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre **7.15** Wrestling **8.15** You're On Sky Sports! **9.00** Racing News **9.30** Aerobics **10.00** Inside Scottish Football **11.00** Rugby League Academy **12.00** Aerobics **12.30pm** Snooker **2.30** Fastrax **3.00** Inside Scottish Football **4.00** Watersports **5.00** Wrestling **6.00** Sports Centre **6.30** Unbelievable Sports **7.00** Live Scottish Football **10.00** Sports Centre **10.15** You're On Sky Sports! **11.00** World Pool **12.00** Sports Centre **12.15am** You're On Sky Sports! **1.00** Rugby League **2.30** Scottish Football **4.30** Sports Centre **4.45** Close

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics **7.30** Sports Centre **7.45** Racing News **8.15** Fastrax **8.45** Sports Centre **9.00** Fish TV **10.00** Sports Unlimited **11.00** Moto Cross **12.00** Ten Pin Bowling **1.00pm** Golf Extra **2.30** Live International One-Day Cricket **10.30** Golf Extra **12.00** Australian Rally Championship **12.30am** European Tour Golf Weekly **1.00** Watersports World **2.00** World Pool League **3.00** Sports Centre **3.15** Close

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00am World Wrestling Federation: Shotgun **1.00pm** Fish TV **2.00** Tales From the Premiership **2.30** Boxing Superbouts **3.30** World Motor Sport **6.30** Golf Extra **8.00** Australian Rally Championship **8.30** Rugby League World **10.00** FA Cup Final Classics **11.30** Close

EUROSPORT

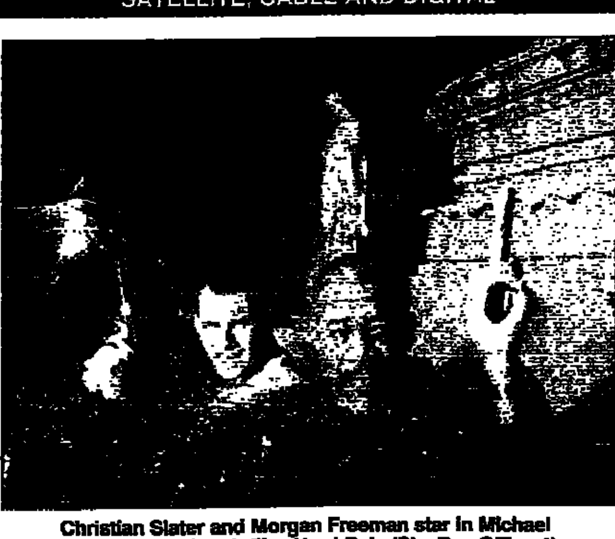
7.30am Football **9.00** Football **10.00** Cart **11.00** Golf **12.00** Tennis **12.30pm** Live Cycling **3.00** Tennis **4.00** Live Football **6.00** Start Your Engines **7.00** Live Football **9.00** Weightlifting **11.00** Start Your Engines **12.00** Trial Biking **12.30am** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Crossroads **7.30** Neighbours **7.55** EastEnders **8.30** The Bill **9.00** The Bill **9.30** The House of Eliott **10.30** Rhoda **11.00** Dallas **11.55** Neighbours **12.25pm** EastEnders **1.00** Bugs **2.00** Dallas **2.55** The Bill **3.25** The Bill **3.55** EastEnders **4.30** Rhoda **5.00** All Creatures Great and Small **6.00** Dynasty **7.00** Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em **7.40** Last of the Summer Wine **8.20** Dad's Army **9.00** Men Behaving Badly **9.40** Men Behaving Badly **10.20** Hamish Macbeth **11.25** The Bill **11.55** The Bill **12.25am** Between the Lines **1.20** Dad's Army **1.55** The Man From Auntie **2.25** The Man From Auntie **3.00** Screenshop

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Wish Me Luck **7.00** How's Your Father? **7.30** The Odd Couple **8.00** Families **8.30** Mind Your Language **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** Emmerdale **10.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **11.00** Charlie's Angels **12.00** Classic Coronation Street **12.30pm** Emmerdale **1.00** Mind Your Language **1.30** Me and My Girl **2.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **3.00** The Love Boat **4.00** The Professionals **5.00** Charlie's Angels **6.00** Emmerdale **6.30** Classic Coronation Street **7.00** The Professionals **8.00** The Benny Hill Show **9.00** The Sweeney **10.00** Hale and Pace **10.30** The Comedians **11.00** Men and Motors



Christian Slater and Morgan Freeman star in Michael Salomon's action thriller *Hard Rain* (Sky Box Office 4)

CARLTON SELECT

5.00pm What's Cooking? **5.30** Gridlock **6.00** My Two Wives **6.30** Our House **7.00** Shine On, Harvey Moon **8.00** Blues and Twos **8.30** Superchefs **9.00** Soldier, Soldier **10.00** Pie in the Sky **11.00** Hill Street Blues **12.00** My Two Wives **12.30am** Gridlock **1.00** Close

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Gummi Bears **6.25** Classic Toons **6.35** Talespin **7.00** 101 Dalmatians **7.25** Classic Toons **7.30** 101 Dalmatians **8.00** Timon and Pumbaa **8.25** Classic Toons **8.30** Timon and Pumbaa **9.00** Hercules: The TV Show **9.30** Hercules **10.00** Boy Meets World **10.30** Boy Meets World **11.00** Smart Guy **11.30** Smart Guy **12.00** Disney on Demand **12.30pm** Disney on Demand **1.00** Disney on Demand **1.30** Amazing Animals **1.55** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **2.10** Bite Size **2.20** Bear in the Big Blue House **2.45** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **3.00** The Little Mermaid **3.30** Art Attack **4.00** 101 Dalmatians **4.30** Hercules **5.00** Recess **5.15** Pepper Ann **5.30** Smart Guy **6.00** Teen Angel **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00 FILM: A Goofy Movie (1995)** **8.15** Honey I Shrunk the Kids: The TV Show **9.00** Dinosaurs **10.00** Home Improvement **10.30** The Wonder Years **11.00** Touched by an Angel **11.50** Classic Toons **12.00** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Power Rangers Turbo **6.55** Spiderman **7.20** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.30** Dennis and Gnasher **8.00** Hero Turtles **8.25** The Incredible Hulk **8.50** Iron Man **9.15** Fantastic Four **9.40** X-Men **10.05** Casper **10.30** Oggy and the Cockroaches **10.55** Eek!Stravaganza **11.05** Bobby's World **11.30** Life with Louie **11.55** Home to Rent **12.05pm** The Secret Files of the Spy Dogs **12.30** Donkey Kong Country **1.00** Mowgli: The New Adventures of the Jungle Book **1.25** Ace Ventura **1.55** The Incredible Hulk **2.20** Iron Man **2.45** Fantastic Four **3.10** X-Men **3.30** X-Press **3.35** Spiderman **4.00** Goosebumps **4.25** Hero Turtles **5.00** Dennis and Gnasher **5.30** Ace Ventura **6.00** Donkey Kong Country **6.30** Eek!Stravaganza **6.55** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.00** Close

NICKELODEON

6.00am Extreme Ghostbusters **6.30** Bruno the Kid **7.00** CatDog **7.30** Rugrats **8.00** Hey Arnold! **8.30** Doug **9.00** Children's BBC **10.00** Wimzie's House **10.30** Papa Beaver Stories **11.00** The Magic School Bus **11.30** PB Bear etc **12.00** Rugrats **12.30pm** Blue's Clues **1.00** Bananas in Pyjamas **1.30** Franklin **2.00** Paddington Bear/Lizzie's Library etc **2.30** Children's BBC **3.30** Doug **4.00** Angry Beavers **4.30** Rugrats **5.00** Sister Sister **5.30** Kenan and Kel **6.00** Sabrina the Teenage Witch **6.30** The Secret Life of Alex Mack **7.00** Close

TROUBLE

7.00am USA High **7.30** City Guys **8.00** Saved By The Bell: The New Class **8.30** Hang Time **9.00** Tempest! **9.50** On the Make **10.00** Echo Point **10.30** Hollyoaks **11.00** Sweet Valley High **11.30** Ready or Not **12.00** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **12.30pm** Weird Science **1.00** In the House **1.30** Tempest! **2.20** On the Make **2.30** Hollyoaks **3.00** Ready Or Not **3.30** City Guys **4.00** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **4.30** Weird Science **5.00** In the House **5.30** Saved by the Bell: The New Class **6.00** Sweet Valley High **6.30** Blast **7.00** USA High **7.30** Hang Time

BRAVO

8.00pm Martial Law **9.00** Cops **9.30** The Late Lounge **10.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **10.30** Erotic Confessions **11.00 FILM: Supervixens (1975)** **1.00am** Erotic Confessions **1.30** The Late Lounge **2.00** Martial Law **3.00 FILM: Cthulhu Mansion (1991)** **5.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **5.30** Cops **6.00** Close

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Clueless **7.30** Caroline in the City **8.00** Mad About You **8.30** Spin City **9.00** Drop the Dead Donkey **9.30** Whose Line Is It Anyway? **10.00** Frasier **10.30** Cheers **11.00** Seinfeld **11.30** Spin City **12.00** Late Night with David Letterman **1.00am** Garry Shandling's Show **1.30** Nurses **2.00** Almost Perfect **2.30** Tibs and Fibs **3.00** Mork and Mindy **3.30** Abbott and Costello **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

SATELLITE: 8pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY

7.30am Bloomberg Information Television **8.00** Sightings **9.00** Battlestar Galactica **10.00** The Six Million Dollar Man **11.00** Dark Shadows **11.30** The Ray Bradbury Theatre **12.00** The Twilight Zone **12.30pm** The Twilight Zone **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Amazing Stories **2.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **3.00** Battlestar Galactica **4.00** The Incredible Hulk **5.00** Sightings **6.00** Space Precinct **7.00** The Six Million Dollar Man **8.00** VR5 **9.00** Lexx **10.00 FILM: Lord of Illusions (1995)** **12.00** PSI Factor: Chronicles of the Paranormal **1.00am FILM: Memory Run (1994)** **2.40** Sci-Focus Special **3.00** Dark Shadows **3.30** Dark Shadows **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

6.00am Simply Painting **6.30** Instant Gardens **7.00** Garden Calendar **7.30** The Restoration Game **8.00** Australia's Strangest Home Improvements **8.30** The Close Guide **9.00** The Joy of Painting **9.30** Grassroots **10.00** Instant Gardens **10.30** Antiques Trail **11.00** Hooked on Fishing with Paul Young **11.25** The Home and Leisure House **11.30** Total Fishing with Matt Hayes **12.00** These Four Walls **12.30pm** Our House Down Under **1.00** The Furniture Guys **1.30** Home Savvy **2.00** New Yankee Workshop **2.30** Home Again with Bob Vila **3.00** This Old House with Steve and Norm **3.30** Two's Country

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **4.30** The Diceman **5.00** Connections **6.00** Wildlife SOS **6.30** Untamed Amazonia **7.30** Flightline **8.00** Yugoslavia - The Death of a Nation **11.00** Lost Treasures of the Ancient World **12.00** Three Gorges: The Biggest Dam in the World **1.00am** Flightline **1.30** The Diceman **2.00** Close

ANIMAL PLANET

12.00am Hollywood Safari **1.00pm** The Blue Beyond **2.00** The Blue Beyond **3.00** Rescuing Baby Whales **4.00** A Dolphin's Destiny **5.00** Wildlife Rescue **6.00** Pet Rescue **7.00** Wildlife SOS **8.00** Animal Doctor **9.00** Emergency Vets **9.30** Emergency Vets **10.00** Emergency Vets **10.30** Emergency Vets **11.00** Emergency Vets **11.30** Emergency Vets **12.00** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm The Mountain Sculptors **7.30** Gorilla **8.30** Fire and Thunder **9.00** Warriors: Way of the Warrior **10.00** Warriors: The Art of the Warrior **11.00** Buddha on the Silk Road **12.00** The Jason Project

HISTORY

4.00pm Vietnam: Alpha Strike **5.00** Classic Cars: GT-40 **6.00** Cannibalism: The Most Ancient Taboo **6.55** Photos for the Future **7.00** Pol Pot **7.55** Photos for the Future

CARLTON FOOD

9.00am Food Network Daily **9.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **10.00** From the Ground Up **10.30** So You Think You Can Cook **11.00** Worrall Thompson Cooks **11.30** Ideal Home Cooks **12.00** Food Network Daily **12.30pm** A Year at Ballymaloe **1.00** Coxon's Kitchen College **1.30** Turner's Tour of Hong Kong **2.00** Mridula's Indian Kitchen **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Loyd's Louisiana **3.30** Ideal Home Cooks **4.00** Thoroughly Modern British **4.30** Simply Baking **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Can't Cook, Won't Cook **6.30** Animal Rescue **7.00** Professor Bubble **7.30** Polka Dot Shorts **7.40** Johnson and Friends **7.50** Babaloos **7.55** Practical Parenting **8.00** Barney and Friends **8.25** My Zoo **8.30** Tiny and Crew **8.50** Practical Parenting **9.00** Special Babies **9.30** Home and Away **10.00** The Jerry Springer Show **10.50** Maury Povich **11.40** Brookside **12.10pm** Through the Keyhole **12.40** Rescue 911 **1.10** Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction **1.40** Maury Povich **2.30** Special Babies **3.00** Living Room **3.50** Michael Cole **4.40** Home and Away **5.10** Through the Keyhole **5.40** Can't Cook, Won't Cook **6.15** The Jerry Springer Show **7.05** Rescue 911 **7.35** Animal Rescue **8.00** LA Law **9.00 FILM: Colour Me Perfect (1996)** **11.00** Sextasy! **12.00** Close

ZEE TV

5.00am Lolly Pop **5.30** Hey Ha Ho **6.00** Out and About **6.30** Yoodle-Ae-Oo **7.00** Faith **7.30** News **8.00** India Business Report **8.30** Tara **9.00** Ris'htey: The Love Stories **10.00** Intequab **11.00** Choobburat **11.30** Parampara **12.00 FILM: Urdu Movie: Shama** **3.00pm** Zee Bangla **3.30** Hum Paanch **4.00** Filmi Chakkar **4.30** Ek Minute **5.00** Jungle Book **5.30** Mausam **6.00** Top of the Tops **6.30** Banegi Apni Baat **7.00** Baat Ban Jaye **7.30** It's My Choice **8.00** News **8.30** Amanat **9.00** Urdu Drama **10.00** Ikke Pe Ikka **10.30** Woh **11.00** Purukshetra **12.00** News **12.30am** Tandoori Masala **1.00** Bangla TV **1.30** Parmart an **2.00 FILM: Movie: Madhapur Ne Nele** **4.30** Narsayo

ATHLETICS 38
The running men who will make the marathon a sprint

SPORT

SIMON BARNES 42
Why a sporting life can be bad for your health



Arsenal strengthened for replay

Petit returns from ban on red alert

By Matt Dickinson

EMMANUEL PETIT insists that he will not tiptoe through *his return to English football* tonight, but then he has little choice. Only one team can survive the impact when Arsenal and Manchester United collide in their FA Cup semi-final replay at Villa Park, so there will be no time for the Frenchman to make gradual reacquaintance.

"Don't watch it alone," was Alex Ferguson's advice and the United manager's warn*ing raises the question of* whether this is the ideal stage for Petit to reappear after his third suspension of a fractured and fractious season. The Arsenal midfield player, as he admitted yesterday, is incapable of resisting a 50-50 tackle and there will be plenty of those against Roy Keane.

His desire to return has burnt so deep, though, that part of him secretly celebrated the 0-0 draw on Sunday and the opportunity of a replay. He is adamant that he has not only recovered peak fitness but also that he has banished the confusion that had made *him question his future at* Highbury. No, he said, he would not walk away from English football in the summer, as he had threatened in the immediate aftermath of his most recent dismissal, against Everton. No, he was not afraid of English referees.

"*It's true that I tried to give* my shirt to the referee after the Everton match and said I was finished with the game here, but I will stay at Arsenal next season," Petit said. "I was very upset because I had just one red card in France in ten years and now I have had four in England, so you can imagine how I felt when I got the last one. I had made only two fouls in the whole game.

"*It won't change how I play,*

Riverside players **40**
Jones exonerated **40**

but it is very difficult for referees now in games with Arsenal. We are not a dirty team, but when there is a foul, the whole ground puts intense pressure on the referee and if he is not a strong man, he will give out cards."

Fears that Petit might use his repeated clashes with authority as an excuse to leave Arsenal for Spain or Italy had been widespread at Highbury, but Arsène Wenger appears to have used all his persuasive charms to lift his compatriot from his depression. "A competitive guy who does not have competition gets sick," the Arsenal *manager* said, "and Petit needs competition to be *happy*.

"I can understand why, when you are in a foreign country and you keep coming back and then getting suspended again, that life is very difficult. But the fans have done as much as me to persuade him to stay."

A combination of suspension and ankle injury has meant that Petit has started only two of the past 12 games *and his return will compen*sate Arsenal for the likely absence of Marc Overmars, who will have a fitness test this morning on a sore ankle. Frederik Ljungberg, *rather* than Nelson Vivas, whose dismissal on Sunday spoilt an otherwise excellent display, is his probable replacement.

Ferguson also hinted at changes yesterday, but it is unlikely that he will rest too many players until the FA Carling Premiership match against Sheffield Wednesday on Saturday. Paul Scholes may return in place of Nicky Butt, while Jesper Blomqvist is putting pressure on Ryan Giggs, but the defence is likely to remain unchanged, with Denis Irwin fit after sustaining an injury at Villa Park.

The United attack must breach an Arsenal defence that has not conceded a goal for 673 minutes and Ferguson's strikers are not in prolific form. Dwight Yorke has not scored for six games and Andy Cole for five, which is a *drought by their standards.* However, Ferguson looked far from worried yesterday, shrugging off suggestions that his side's attempt at a treble may leave them too tired to secure even one trophy.

"Goals always tend to dry up at this stage of the season," he said. "You are never going to get runaway victories, but the confidence is high. The players have been consistenly brilliant, finishing first and second in the league over the years, and that speaks volumes for what a great team we have.

"This is the sort of situation we have been working at for years and the players are enjoying it. It is a good time for them and you can only be jealous that they are playing and you are not."

The fact that both teams practised penalties yesterday would suggest that the managers are expecting another tight game. It may be late into the night before Newcastle United discover who they will be facing in the FA Cup final at Wembley on May 22.

ARSENAL (probable, 4-4-2): D Seaman — L Dixon, M Keown, T Adams, N Winterburn — R Parlour, P Vieira, E Petit, F Ljungberg — D Bergkamp, N Anelka

MANCHESTER UNITED (probable, 4-4-2): P Schmeichel — G Neville, R Johnsen, J Stam, D Irwin — D Beckham, R Keane, P Scholes, R Giggs — D Yorke, A Cole

Manchester United have failed to beat Arsenal in six matches dating back to November 1997. During the same period, the London side has lifted the Premiership, the FA Cup and the Charity Shield.

Nov 9 1997	Arsenal	3	Man Utd	2	Premiership
Mar 14 1998	Man Utd	0	Arsenal	1	Premiership
Aug 9 1998	Arsenal	3	Man Utd	0	Charity Shield
Sep 20 1998	Arsenal	3	Man Utd	0	Premiership
Feb 17 1999	Man Utd	1	Arsenal	1	Premiership
Apr 11 1999	Man Utd	0	Arsenal	0 (aet)	FA Cup s/final

Television: Sky Sports 2, 7pm — Radio: Radio 5 Live

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1691

ACROSS
1 Moral campaign: religious war (7)
5 A *square measure*: city attacked by 1s (4)
8 Forge (6)
9 Pressing (6)
10 (Eg Churchill's) depression (5,3)
12 Cry loudly: sounds like *dance* (4)
13 Opening in battlement (9)
17 Ill-mannered person (4)
18 Japanese beef dish (8)
20 (Trap) closed: helped to escape (from prison) (6)
21 Strongly criticise (6)
23 Detained (4)
24 Prolonged (7)

DOWN
2 Low sound; see through (trick) *(slang)* (6)
3 (Complete) group of like things (3)
4 Tree spirit (5)
5 Noisy wrangle (4-5)
6 Fame (6)
7 Organism as eg rust, yeast (6)
11 *Pop in: be persuaded* (4,5)
14 Give up (post) (6)
15 Pair (6)
16 Rough drawing (6)
19 Oxford Movement leader: Ox. college (5)
22 Fix up (fraudulently): outfit (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1690
ACROSS: 1 Abandon 5 Verve 8 Circa 9 Twelfth 10 Indolent 11 Blur 13 Encyclopaedia 16 July 17 Wretched 20 Afghani 21 Liven 22 Sleek 23 Essence
DOWN: 1 Ascribe 2 Acrid 3 Deadlock 4 Not on your life 5 Veer 6 Ruffled 7 Ether 12 Nautilus 14 Cologne 15 Al dente 16 Jeans 18 Haven 19 Bask



Boon, the Durham captain, who arrived recently in the North East after a summer in Australia, practises his catching skills by juggling with snowballs on the outfield at the Riverside. Photograph: Stuart Outterside

Winter mocks early starters

By Michael Austin

SNOW, two inches of it, prevented any play at Chester-le-*Street between Durham and* Worcestershire yesterday as winter returned with a vengeance to bite into the earliest start to any county championship cricket season.

Norman Gifford, the Durham coach, who has been involved at first-class level for 42 years, was dumbfounded. "I have never seen snow like that on any English ground," he said. "When I arrived at 8.30am, everything was ready for a prompt start. Within two hours, the ground was com*pletely white. I have seen* April snow flurries, but they have always cleared quickly."

As upset as anyone was David Measor, the Durham head groundsman, who had prepared his first championship pitch since taking over from Tom Flintoft, who had been in charge since the county's elevation to first-class status seven years ago.

Ironically, in Durham's inaugural match that season, snow caused an interruption against Oxford University in the Parks, although the most famous modern instance of *snow stopping play came in* the game between Derbyshire and Lancashire at Buxton 24 years ago — but that was in June.

The late Ashley Harvey-Walker, of Derbyshire, handed his false teeth to the umpire because the pitch was becoming dangerous.

Not unexpectedly, there was also a blank day at Old Trafford, where Lancashire are playing host to Sussex.

County reports, page 41

Bradley charged in racing inquiry

By Stewart Tendler and Alan Lee

AFTER two years of speculation and dramatic arrests by Scotland Yard detectives, involving a number of leading figures in horse-racing, a jockey was charged yesterday. The rider concerned is Graham Bradley, 38, the senior jumps jockey, who is accused of conspiracy to cheat.

He was released on police bail and will appear at Bow Street Magistrates Court today accused of preventing his mount, Man Mood, from winning a two-runner handicap chase at Warwick in November, 1996. Man Mood, the 7-4 on favourite, was pulled up. A stewards' inquiry accepted Bradley's explanation that the horse lost his action due to a wind ailment.

Bradley has been charged under the Criminal Law Act 1977. He is accused of conspiring with others to win bets on the race by fraud and agreeing that Man Mood would not win.

In a 21-year National Hunt career, Bradley has won many of the leading races, including *the Cheltenham Gold Cup in* 1983, on Bregawn, and the Champion Hurdle in 1996, on

Racing **39**

Collier Bay. He now also faces a review of his rider's licence by the Jockey Club.

Bradley, stable jockey at the Uplands yard once owned by Fred Winter, rode Suny Bay in the Grand National last Saturday. Hewas arrested at his home in Sparsholt, Oxfordshire, in January in the latest in a series of police raids. Ray Cochrane, a *Flat jockey, and* Charlie Brooks, trainer of Man Mood, were also arrested. Cochrane was eliminated from police inquiries last month and Brooks was released without charge yesterday after earlier being freed on bail.

Last year, police arrested three other jockeys — Dean Gallagher, Leighton Aspell and Jamie Osborne. They have also been released without charge.

Today, five men accused of conspiracy to defraud by doping horses are also due to appear at Bow Street. They are accused of "interference with the running of horses in horse-racing by the administration of a performance-inhibiting drug".

Celtic secure Larsson's future

By Phil Gordon

CELTIC demonstrated their willingness yesterday to compete with the wealthiest clubs in Europe by securing Henrik Larsson, the leading goalscorer, on a new four-year contract. It will make the Sweden player the wealthiest in Celtic's history.

Larsson, 27, has signed with the Scottish champions until 2003 for a reported salary of £1.3 million a year, an act of faith by Celtic that is at odds with the club's tradition of be*ing parsimonious.*

Larsson's 37 goals this season had attracted widespread interest from around the Continent, including Tottenham Hostpur and Manchester United, of the FA Carling *Premier*ship, who were all mindful that he was about to enter the last year of his existing contract.

For a club that has failed to retain any of its key players over the past two decades, the loss of Larsson would have been a blow that extended far beyond the pitch. It would have sent out the signal that Celtic, *unlike Rangers,* were still willing to cut corners when it came to rewarding its players. In the past, Kenny Dalglish, Charlie Nicholas and Brian McClair multiplied their Parkhead salaries by going to Liverpool, Arsenal and Manchester United respective*ly. Similarly, Pierre van Hooij*donk and Paolo Di Canio left in 1997, when the envy of English salaries became too great.

Earlier this season, Celtic's players were embroiled in a *damaging dispute with Fergus* McCann, the then-chairman, who refused to meet their demands for a £25,000-per-man bonus for reaching the European Cup Champions' League group stage. However, Allan MacDonald, the club's new *managing director,* who took control only last week after McCann, the majority shareholder, departed for tax exile, indicated that the club is undergoing a sea change.

"I quickly *understood that* the team is the most important thing at the club," MacDonald said. "Getting quality players is our most important objective. I had to instil order where *there was perhaps a perceived* disorder and Henrik is the foundation stone upon which I would like to build the team."

Recent reports claimed that Larsson had been given a *take-it-or-leave-it offer by Mc*Cann, which is not the way to approach the single-minded Swede. Larsson took his previous club, Feyenoord, to court in order to win his cut-price *£650,000 transfer to Celtic in* 1997.



Larsson: happy in Scotland

Larsson's decision is as much prompted by lifestyle as money and he was fearful of Brian Laudrup's admission that he made a mistake in leaving Glasgow to join Chelsea from Rangers last year. "Why go somewhere else when I am perfectly happy here?" Larsson said. "My family have come to love Scotland and are settled here. The quality of life here makes this the right decision. It was a big decision to make, because I will be 32 when this contract ends. However, Celtic is a very big club and has the potential to be even bigger."

Larsson's news somewhat overshadowed the arrival in *Glasgow yesterday of Rang*ers' latest signing, Claudio Reyna, the United States midfield player, who has signed a four-year contract after his £1.2million transfer from the German club, Vfl Wolfsburg. Reyna will be unable to play in the Scottish Cup final next month against Celtic, but hopes to contribute to the push to regain the championship.

Sprint finish, page 40